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Annual Tribal Council Meeting: Call for Resolutions and Applications for Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council

Submitted by the Office of Tribal Council

Annual Tribal Council Meeting Announcement: Call for Resolutions and Applications for Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council

Article V – Tribal Council
Section 3: Annual Meeting and Special Meetings.

An annual meeting of the Tribal Council shall be held on the first Saturday in October. No other meetings of the Tribes shall be held on the first Saturday in October, including a special tribal council meeting of the Tribal Council or a meeting of the Legislature. The annual meeting of the Tribal Council shall be held in Concho. The Tribes shall provide bus transportation for members of the Tribes to attend the annual meeting.

The Constitution also reads in subsection (c), in part, “The Coordinator of the Office of Tribal Council shall provide notice of all regular meetings and special meetings of the Tribal Council at least fifteen days before such meeting.

Section 4: Procedures
Subsection (c) reads, in part, “The Coordinator shall accept proposed resolutions at least thirty days before each annual meeting or special meeting of the Tribal Council. The Coordinator shall publish all proposed Resolutions which are submitted at least thirty days before the meeting, and all such Resolutions shall be placed on an agenda for the Tribal Council meeting. No item shall be placed on an agenda for a Tribal Council meeting unless such item has been

submitted to the Coordinator in writing at least thirty days before the Tribal Council meeting.

Section 5: Office of the Tribal Council

Subsection (a) reads, in part, “A Coordinator for the office of the Tribal Council shall be selected by the Tribal Council at the annual meeting of the Tribal Council or at a Special Meeting of the Tribal Council, as needed. Members of the Tribes interested in serving in the position of Coordinator shall submit an application at least thirty days prior to the Tribal Council meeting. All applications for Coordinator shall be published at least thirty days prior to the Tribal Council meeting.

DEADLINE for Resolutions & Coordinator Applications is by 4 p.m., Aug. 31, 2021.

Applications for Coordinator must be stamped “received” by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Personnel office no later than 4 p.m. Aug. 31, 2021. The applications are available online by visiting www.cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov and clicking on Personnel, or picked up and submitted to the Human Resource office located within the Dept. of Administration building in Concho, Okla.

For questions or more information call the Tribal Council office at 405-422-7430, toll free at 800-247-4612, ext. 7430, or by cell at 405-416-0726, or email mbigfoot@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov.

Oklahoma health experts call for emergency declaration as COVID surges again

By Dana Branham

Some Oklahoma health leaders are calling on the governor to reissue an emergency health declaration as the state’s COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations surge, especially as children are set to return to school next month.

Fueled by the delta variant and low vaccination rates, COVID-related hospitalizations nearly tripled in the last two weeks in Oklahoma, said Aaron Wendelboe, an epidemiologist with the University of Oklahoma’s College of

Public Health.

“This situation is really looking grim, with a greater increase in cases and hospitalizations than I expected for mid-summer,” Wendelboe said.

In response to the recent surge, Oklahoma health experts said an emergency declaration from the governor would give hospitals needed flexibility in how they use their facilities to respond to COVID-19, and it would open the door for school districts to impose mask re-

See EMERGENCY pg. 4



Colorado schools have 11 months to remove American Indian mascots

By Saja Hindi, Denver Post

A school mascot played a role in Stephanie Jerome’s decision last year not to enroll her 10-year-old daughter in the Cheyenne Mountain School District, whose high school mascot is the “Indians.”

The Jerome family is of Lakota and Ojibwe heritage. Before they moved to Colorado Springs, Jerome’s sons had been bullied in other schools for their background and their long hair, and given the mascot, the family thought it would be even worse for her daughter, Jeanvieve.

“It’s disrespectful to our

people and it hurts to see people support that,” said Jeanvieve, who also didn’t want to go to school in the district and was homeschooled instead. She said it gives students permission to make fun of Native students, furthering mocking and bullying in schools.

The 25 Colorado schools that have American Indian mascots have 11 months to remove them or face a monthly fine of \$25,000. That means changing uniforms, signs, paintings in hallways and even gym floors, and when Democratic Gov. Jared

Polis signed SB21-116, he paired it with a letter of concern about the short timespan and cost to school districts, which can run hundreds of thousands dollars.

Backers of the law say not only is it the right thing to do, American Indians in Colorado say many of the mascots turn their identities into caricatures — but the districts also have known this was a long time coming. Schools with these mascots could save making a change if they had an agreement with a federally recognized tribe by June 30, or they can apply for a state Building Excellent

Schools Today (BEST) grant to help with costs, though the process is already competitive and the grants likely wouldn’t be issued in time.

“High schools and colleges and universities really haven’t looked at it from a Native perspective,” Ute Mountain Ute Chairman Manuel Heart said. “They have these mascots in this area, or with the Redskins or with the Savages ... are they really understanding who we are and what we do?”

The National Congress of American Indians has

See MASCOTS pg. 4

31st Annual Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow Returns to Keep Traditions Alive, Despite COVID-19 Pandemic

Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

In a pre-pandemic world, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, along with other tribes in and around Oklahoma, look forward to the annual Oklahoma Indian Nations (OIN) Powwow held every year in Concho, Okla.

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed everything in its tracks, OIN was forced to cancel its annual powwow in 2020 to keep tribal citizens and community members safe.

A year later OIN will make its return to the powwow scene July 30 through Aug. 1 at the Concho powwow grounds in Concho, Okla., in spite of the rising new COVID-19 cases stemming from the Delta Variant.

Dara Franklin, who joined the OIN committee in 1999 and serves as the chairwoman said for 22 years the OIN had never been cancelled ... until the year 2020.

“We didn’t have it last year, but it brings all our people together and a lot of tribes come, we’ve seen how it’s grown, and we’ve had people come and say they couldn’t even get



down here to the powwow because it’s so packed,” Franklin said. “I think it brings a lot of our people together, our tribe has been involved, they’ve been real significant in pitching in and helping, like this year we didn’t have any fundraisers so the tribe’s going to help us with contest money, but then we have the head staff that’s asked to come and help us, and then our princesses, they’re all pitching in to make this year happen,” Franklin said.

Founded in October 1987, Okla-

homa Indian Nations Powwow was founded on the premise of perpetuating the traditional customs and values of the Oklahoma Plains Indians. Beginning with 11 members, the club has grown to over 50 members in as little as two years with the club predominantly being Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal citizens. Although, other tribes have been actively involved as well.

Christine Morton, OIN committee secretary and treasurer said the constitution and by-laws of the club

See OIN pg. 7

Delta Variant sparks new COVID-19 Cases in Cheyenne and Arapaho Country

Dr. Derrell Cox, PhD, Cheyenne and Arapaho Dept. of Health

(CONCHO, OK) The past 16 months of the COVID pandemic has been difficult for our people. We have lost many loved ones, family members, elders, and friends to this disease. After nearly a year and a half, we are all grieving for all that has been lost and we are all tired of having to mask, sanitize, social distance, and deal with the other unwanted things that COVID has caused.

To add insult to injury, many of our friends, neighbors, and even family members have relied on inaccurate and sometimes contrary sources of news and information from talk show hosts, politicians, and even some spiritual leaders, sources of information that should have been trustworthy, about the pandemic and the vaccines developed to prevent COVID. These have added additional challenges and have caused the pandemic to continue and resurge.

However, it is really important for us to stay vigilant to protect our families, our elders and others who are vulnerable, and our future as Cheyenne and Arapaho. From the beginning of the pandemic, the leadership of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have worked to provide accurate and trustworthy information to our

people. Over the past 16 months, we have communicated through CATV, CA Tribal Tribune, social media, virtual town halls, legislative offices, and one-on-one conversations.

COVID-19 and the Delta Variant

COVID-19, especially the Delta variant, is a unique and serious disease unlike any we have faced before. Some studies have found that a majority of those who had mild to moderate disease are reporting long-term side-effects (especially fatigue or muscle weakness) from COVID.

Those who have had COVID are at greater risk for developing diabetes, chronic kidney or liver disease, heart disease, and other chronic health issues. More than 2.3 million COVID isolates have emerged worldwide since the pandemic began, with more than 735,000 of these in the US. However, only a small number of these have caused serious concern, one of these is the Delta variant (aka B.1.617.2, first identified in India).

The most common symptoms (runny nose, sore throat, and headache) caused by the Delta variant are slightly different than previous versions (fever, loss of taste/smell, difficulty breathing). As of

July 22, 2021, around 84% of all new COVID infections in Oklahoma are caused by the Delta variant. The Delta variant is by far the most serious and easily transmissible to have emerged since the pandemic began and it is now bearing down upon us in Oklahoma.

It will likely be the most dangerous virus that we will face in our lifetime ... both from our past and the foreseeable future. This variant is 225% more transmissible and makes those infected sicker more quickly than the original variant, making it similar to smallpox, which plagued our lands many generations ago. The Delta variant is more likely to cause severe disease, hospitalization, and death than previous variants.

As of July 23, 2021, COVID cases have dramatically increased from between 50% (Blaine County), 471% (Canadian County), 550% (Custer County), to 900% (Kingfisher County) over the past two weeks in counties within or near the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes service area. As such, it is extremely important that we remain vigilant in preventing COVID infections in our workplaces and facilities, by continuing to require and enforce the use of face masks

by unvaccinated persons to prevent transmission.

Here are a few points that we hope will make dealing with the current challenges and dangers of the pandemic easier.

The easiest and most effective way for you to protect yourself and others is to get vaccinated. The vaccines that have been developed to fight COVID are highly effective and very safe, including against the Delta variant.

The new mRNA vaccines (Pfizer and Moderna) that have been developed to prevent the spread of this virus (and the serious harm it has caused our people through loss of connection, health, income, and sometimes life) are among the most effective and safe that have ever been developed. While the technology behind them may seem new, it has been in development and research for 40 years.

No vaccine prevents 100% of a disease, but these are very close to preventing all cases of serious disease and deaths. Yet, many people remain at risk for reasons beyond their control, such as older adults, especially those with comorbidities of frailty and/or obesity, who are at greater risk of breakthrough infections. Also, individuals who are immunocom-

See DELTA VARIANT pg. 11

New Surge in COVID-19 Cases In Oklahoma

(CONCHO, OK) Oklahoma is seeing surges in COVID cases caused by the Delta variant (first identified in India) coming from regions of low vaccination rates in surrounding states. Ellis county in the Northwest part of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' service area is one of these areas with very high risk and Blaine, Canadian, and Custer Counties are all at high risk, moving from moderate risk.

On Monday, July 26, the Oklahoma Health Department reported 3,669 new COVID-19 cases since Friday, July 23, bringing the 7-day rolling average of new cases to 1,159.

Oklahoma has many counties with low vaccination rates, including many service areas of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, which put our people at greater risk for uncontrolled community spread in our area.

The Delta variant's different primary symptoms:

The Delta variant is spreading rapidly for three main reasons: 1) it is the most contagious variant to emerge thus far (~50% more transmissible than the Alpha variant first detected in the UK); 2) it often presents with different primary symptoms (headache, runny nose, and sore throat) mimicking less serious illnesses (such as the common

cold or hay fever) early on, which has resulted in those infected not getting tested as soon or at all, seeking medical care later, and spreading the disease to more people on average compared to the previous variants; and 3) vaccine hesitancy/resistance—a high percentage of unvaccinated people live in those areas.

Increasing number of COVID-related hospitalizations and deaths—nearly all of these are unvaccinated:

Hospitalizations and ICU admissions for COVID have more than doubled in the past two weeks in Oklahoma with hospitals in Northeastern Oklahoma either full or near capacity. Deaths among young and middle-aged adults have increased. Over 99% of those being hospitalized now are unvaccinated.

Vaccinations for COVID are highly effective:

The COVID vaccinations are freely available through our EMS, the IHS, and most pharmacies and healthcare providers. They are highly effective at preventing infection, transmission, severe disease, hospitalization, and death due to COVID.

If you haven't yet been vaccinated, please get yours as soon as possible to protect yourself, your family, and our people from COVID and encourage those you know to do the same.

“Of the People, For The People ... Our People” VOTE BLACKBEAR/HAMILTON OCT. 5



Governor Candidate: Wilma Blackbear

Wilma Blackbear – Governor candidate

I grew up around Watonga most of my life. Eugene Blackbear Sr. is my dad, and only son of Chief Paul Blackbear. He was Ceremonial Chief seated by Roy Bullcoming and Roy Nighwalker.

My mom was Stella Roman Nose Blackbear, who was the last living granddaughter of Chief Henry Roman Nose. Both of my parents come from Watonga.

I would like to service all members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, in state and out of state, Elders, children, teenagers, parents and young adults. I would like to ensure services to all tribal members and a human voice to answer the phones.

Under Ed White Skunk I implemented the clothing voucher program, wrote the resolution and submitted to Tribal Council for the children's per capita. I wrote the food Distribution grant to get the

program for our tribes and have been involved with the Watonga Veterans, Inc., the last 25 years. I am the secretary/treasurer of the Cheyenne Chapter One Native American Church and have worked with the tribes in various positions including Planning Dept., Elder's nutrition Center and was the first president for UNITY (United Indian Tribal Youth) when they formed the organization. I have also worked in the Gaming Commission office.

I have six sisters, Roberta, Frances (deceased), Ida, Imogene (deceased), Barbara (deceased), and Susie, and six brothers, Eugene, Rex, Paul, Ralph, Fred, and Larry Roman Nose. My dad had two sisters, Imogene Blackbear Big Medicine and Roberta Blackbear Black, but no brothers. My mom's brothers are Milan and Fred Roman Nose, and sisters include Vida Roman Nose Red Buffalo, Amanda Roman Nose Hail, Ann Roman Nose Seger. For a

short time I assisted in the care of our mother, who lives for 92 years.

I would like more of our tribal members in key positions within our tribe and I believe we can make a difference for our people in a good way because we will be their voice. We will listen to our people on how to help them.

It would be a great honor to be a servant and voice for our Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma as Governor. We come from the Scabby Band from Watonga, which in Cheyenne means 'One Eagle Feather.'

I have six children, Kimberly West, Joann DeJesus, Daryn West, Rena Enchassi and Malcolm Whitebird III, and Marie Whitebird and I live with my companion Malcolm Whitebird Jr.

I am also the proud grandmother to 19 grandchildren.

Roberta ‘Bobbie’ White Thunder Hamilton – Lt. Gov. Candidate

My name is Roberta ‘Bobbie’ White Thunder Hamilton. My family is from the Fonda/Watonga area.

My parents are Robert White Thunder (Kit Fox Headsmen) and Ida Blackman White Thunder.

My paternal grandparents are Cheyenne Chief Edward White Thunder and Jane Bigfoot Blackburn. My maternal grandparents are Arapaho Chief John Blackman and Esther Howling Crane.

My great-grandfather White Thunder was Sacred Arrow Keeper.

I have two sisters, Frances White Thunder and Berdina Willey White Thunder.

My children are Heather, Damon and Aaron White Thunder, Nya, Bobby and Ashton Hamilton and my husband is Dale Hamilton Sr.

We are a grassroots team. We will listen to our tribal members, both out of district and in district to address their needs and concerns.

There are many issues we will address along with our tribal members.

We hope you will vote for our team for Governor/Lt. Governor on Oct. 5.

Paid Advertising



Lt. Governor Candidate: Roberta ‘Bobbie’ White Thunder Hamilton



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Election Commission Announces Special Election for Arapaho District 2 Election Commissioner

The following public offices is open for election: Arapaho District 2 Election Commissioner

Voting will be included on the same ticket as the 2021 Elections.

Beginning July 19 through Aug. 6, 2021, nominations for public office will open to qualified candidates wishing to run for Arapaho District 2 Election Commissioner.

Registration packets are available at the Election Commission office located in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Education Building located in Concho, Okla. Filing Fee will need to be paid before receiving a packet.

All interested candidates must submit their completed registration packet along with their verification of candidate eligibility no later than

5 p.m. on Aug. 6, 2021.

Candidate Filing Fees for A2 District Election Commissioner is \$100

The non-refundable filing fee must be a cashier’s check or money order payable to the Election Commission.

Waivers of the filing fee are available upon request if the person meets or falls below the current federal poverty guidelines and can document this with their prior year federal income tax. This determination must be made before a packet can be picked up.

The minimum qualifications for the District Election Commission candidates are as follows:

1. A candidate for District Election Commissioner shall be an enrolled member of the tribe and shall

possess a high school diploma or its equivalent.

2. No person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to serve as an Election Commissioner.

3. At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for District Election Commissioner shall physically reside in the district for which he or she seeks elective office and if elected, reside in that district for the duration of their term.

4. The candidate cannot owe any money or owe any debts to the tribes.

For more information or questions please contact the Election Commission office toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27619.

PUBLIC NOTICE: Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Dept. of Housing: COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Program

By Damon Dunbar, Acting Executive Director

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Dept. of Housing’s temporary COVID Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program operates on a supplemental funding from the US Treasury Department to help combat the risk of homelessness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It only serves Cheyenne and Arapaho households who are low income, or newly low income due to layoffs, business loss, health issues or other financial factors directly caused by COVID.

The program provides past due rent and utilities as well as future rent. Eligible applicants must be Cheyenne and Arapaho, 18 years of age or older. Total household income cannot exceed 80% of U.S. median income limits, as published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as listed on the application.

The Dept. of Housing would like to inform tribal applicants of the ERA that the program only has two employees at this time. They are working as quickly as possible with the 600+ applications to get them verified and processed. The first step is to have a complete appli-

cation with all documents turned in. The second step is verifying the application is correct and contacting the landlord. The third step, by the staff, is turning in the complete application for payment.

What holds up the process is not completing the application with **ALL** necessary documentation. These are federal funds from the U.S. Department of Treasurer and this process must be followed.

Here is the link to download the ERA form: <https://cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/project/forms/>

Here’s the link to fill it out ERA online and upload your documents: <https://cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/project/department-of-housing/>

The applicant must be the renter and affected by COVID-19. This does not necessarily mean you had to have caught COVID-19, but how the virus affected you. We, at the Dept. of Housing, understands that tribal citizens have been through a lot with the pandemic, and will assist them as quickly as they can.

For more information please call 580-331-2410 or 580-331-2416. You may FAX applications to 405-422-8271.

At one former boarding school in Oklahoma, honoring the dead now falls to alumni

A new federal investigation into the unmarked graves of Indigenous students unearths a complicated history and patchy records at dozens of Oklahoma boarding school sites.

By Ari Fife, Read Frontier

A few miles from the Kansas border, a handful of Chilocco Indian Agricultural School alumni drove down a long dirt road on a warm July morning to tend to parts of the sprawling but now-crumbling campus. While much of the grounds are overgrown with weeds, the school’s graveyard, near Newkirk, receives precise manicuring.

Chilocco alumni only knew of 10 graves at the school when they began taking care of the site more than 20 years ago, but they’ve since uncovered 57 additional burials that occurred between 1884 to 1937 — all unmarked.

“It is a sacred ground, and it should be treated as such and respected as such, particularly when you know that a lot of the people who are buried there are former Chilocco students, from the very school that we call home,” said Jim Baker, president of

the school’s national alumni association.

The graveyard at the former federally-funded school is likely to become part of a nationwide Department of the Interior investigation aimed at locating the unmarked graves of native students at boarding schools.


In June, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced a new inquiry into the legacy of Native American boarding

schools in the United States after the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves in Canada.

Including Chilocco, Oklahoma has 83 former and current Indian boarding school sites, more than any other state, according to the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

Many of the schools were operated by religious groups


See BOARDING SCHOOLS *pg. 11*



ELECTION COMMISSION

PO Box 89

Concho, OK 73022



Election Commission announces the Final List of Candidates for the 2021 Elections

Concho, Oklahoma (July 15, 2021) –The Challenge Period has ended and here is the Final Listing of Candidates for the 2021 Tribal Elections.

Governor and Lt Governor
Reggie Wassana, Incumbent
Gilbert Miles, Incumbent

A1 District Legislator
Roni Allen Villeda
Diane Willis
Debra Woolworth
Kenny Williams

A2 District Legislator
Kendricks Sleeper, Incumbent
Juaquin Lonelodge
Dale Hamilton
Myra Campbell

A3 Election Commissioner
Patricia Smothers, Incumbent
Doris Thunderbull
Cody Zimmer

A4 Election Commissioner
Elizabeth Birdshead, Incumbent

C1 Election Commissioner
Sandra Hinshaw, Incumbent
Janet Bullcoming
Frederick Blackbear


C2 District Legislator
George Woods, Incumbent
Frances White Thunder
Melvin Roman Nose
Clifton Ellis
Chris Patton
Milan Roman Nose
Alan Fletcher
Rollin (Eddie) Hamilton
Sequoyah Locust

C3 Election Commissioner
Ramona Welch, Incumbent
Jason Hines
Angeline Lime

C4 District Legislator
Byron Byrd, Incumbent
Tiffany Bullcoming
Delford White Crow
Frances Bullcoming
Rosemary Armendariz

Congratulations to all the Candidates!!!

ELECTION COMMISSION



PO Box 89
Concho, OK 73022
(405) 422-7619 EXT: 27619

Concho, Oklahoma July 15, 2021

2021 Primary and General Election Timeline

- Primary Absentee Ballots will be mailed out August 23-27, 2021.
- Primary Election to be held October 5, 2021.
- General Absentee Ballots will be mailed out October 6-11, 2021.
- General Election to be held November 2, 2021.
- Absentee Ballots will be picked up at 3:00 p.m. on Election Days.
- There will be 10 (ten) On-site Polling locations. (Official addresses to come.)
- Any registered voter may vote at any polling site, however, they must be duly registered to vote.

- Arapaho District 2-Election Commissioner seat will need to be filled for 2 years, which is the remainder of a 4-year term, and will be on this ticket and ONLY Arapaho District 2 voters will be allowed to vote for this selection.

1. Candidate Registration will open July 19-August 6, 2021.

2. Completed Packets must be returned by August 6, 2021.

- "A Special Election to Amend the 2006 Constitution" will be held within 90 days so be on the look-out for more information.

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

405-422-7446 / rmstephens@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov


Cheyenne and Arapaho


T r i b a l T r i b u n e


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2020 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST/OK CHAPTER MEDIA AWARD WINNER

EMERGENCY

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quirements.

Health leaders, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, have recommended all children wear masks at school this fall whether they’re vaccinated or not. Currently, only children 12 and older are eligible for a vaccine.

“I’m a family doc. We do a lot of preventive maintenance,” said Dr. Mary Clarke, the president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. “It’s unfortunate that we know what is going to happen, and we know how to prevent it. And yet, we don’t have the ability for people to say anything and do anything about it right now.”

Calls for emergency declaration

When Gov. Kevin Stitt declared a statewide health emergency last year, it let hospitals cut through red tape and adapt to the crisis in a way they otherwise couldn’t.

The emergency order allowed hospital workers to convert conference rooms into makeshift hospital rooms for non-COVID patients in Stillwater, Clarke said. But now, if hospitals have more patients who need care than what they have capacity for, they’d have to transfer them elsewhere.

That’s especially troubling as hospital beds are filling up in parts of the state, experts said. Hospitals were already busier than usual treating patients who had to put off care during the pandemic, even before the latest COVID-19 wave began.

“We’ve got to start having a coordinated, cohesive statewide response to prepare for this new wave,” said Dr. George Monks, a former president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association, who is among the state’s health leaders who want to see an emergency order reinstated.

Stitt’s original emergency declara-

tion was in place for more than a year before he lifted it on May 4.

An emergency declaration is the only way school districts can impose mask mandates under Senate Bill 658, which the governor signed into law in May.

The governor’s office declined to comment Tuesday when asked whether the governor was considering reinstating an emergency declaration.

Asked whether the Oklahoma Health Department believes an emergency declaration is necessary in the wake of the surge in cases, state epidemiologist Jolianne Stone said in a statement that the department was monitoring the situation and is in “constant discussions with state leaders to provide the data to help make these decisions.”

She said the department was also working with hospitals and hospital associations to make sure they have the space and equipment they need to manage the increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

‘Between a rock and a hard place’

Without a statewide emergency declaration, “because of this new law, a lot of our superintendents’ and school leaders’ hands are tied,” said Dr. Donna Tyungu, a pediatric infectious disease specialist.

“The virus has mutated in such a way that it is able to infect children much easier than the prior (strain) from last year,” Tyungu said. “I just really want that point to get across that even if schools cannot mandate masks, we do recommend that their children go to school in well-fitting masks — maybe even consider medical grade masks.”

Clarke said medical leaders are in alignment with what the state needs now: more vaccinations, and masking, especially for those who are unvaccinated.



But with the law preventing a mask mandate in schools in the absence of an emergency order, “we’re a little bit stuck in between a rock and a hard place,” Clarke said.

Wendelboe said it’s time for the state to examine its priorities.

“Do we want kids in the classroom or not? I think we do,” he said. “If that’s the priority, then we need to think about policies that help us do that.”

He said the pandemic has become a political issue rather than a health one.

“One of the best ways to make it more of a health issue is to let the health professionals deal with the pandemic and have a whole range of mitigation efforts,” Wendelboe said. “When policymakers make laws that

restrict our ability to respond to a pandemic, that just makes it very difficult.”

Dr. Jean Hausheer, chair of the Healthier Oklahoma Coalition, said there are still measures Oklahomans can take on their own to prevent the spread of the virus.

“Wash your hands, watch your distance,” she said. “Really, get your vaccine. That is the most mindful thing to do.”

To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, visit vaccines.gov, or Oklahoma’s state vaccine scheduling portal at vaccinate.oklahoma.gov.

Staff writer Carmen Forman contributed to this report. This article first published online at Oklahoman.com.

MASCOTS

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been asking for mascot changes for more than 30 years, said Democratic state Rep. Adrienne Benavidez of Commerce City, one of the sponsors of the new law. The Colorado Legislature has also tried to pass the bill in years past.

Colorado started its own assessment amid national discussions about the use of derogatory Native American mascots, and in 2016, a state commission recommended schools should eliminate all Native American mascots because of the misrepresentation and stereotypes they perpetuate unless a school came to an agreement with a federally recognized tribe. Strasburg and Arapahoe high schools currently have agreements.

In March, Cheyenne Mountain High School decided to retire its mascot. And Montrose County School District started looking at replacing the mascots at two of its schools this year once the bill passed the Legislature, Montrose High School (the Indians) and Centennial Middle School (the Braves, its logo a Native American in a headdress).

The district’s initial estimate for changing both mascots is a combined \$500,000 to \$750,000, though that could change, Montrose School District spokesman Matt Jenkins said. That would include everything from paint on the gym walls to scoreboards to school apparel.

Jenkins said the schools have a good relationship with local tribes and try to be respectful in the mascots’ use, there isn’t one painted on the high school gym floor, but they don’t have a formal agreement. The district plans to do whatever it needs to conform to the law.

Colorado Rural Schools Alliance Executive Director Michelle Murphy is worried about schools that operate on “shoestring budgets” and have already passed their yearly budgets. She believes the legislation goes beyond the commission’s work, the commission released recommendations but acknowledged local control of public schools.

“We have real concerns about the ability of rural school districts to find the resources and have sufficient time to make the required changes without incurring fines,” she said. “We also question the lawfulness of the fines under our state constitution.”

Many Colorado Republicans, particularly those from rural areas, also cited the cost and quick turnaround when they voted against the bill.



Volleyball players practice during a summer skills camp in a gymnasium at Montrose High School in Montrose, Colo., on Tuesday, June 29, 2021. (Photos / William Woody)

“Some of these names like the (Lamar) Savages are totally unacceptable, frankly,” GOP Rep. Colin Larson of Littleton said. But his vote came down to how he views the law as an unfunded mandate that could force schools to have to cut essential needs, including staff, to pay for the new expenses in a short amount of time.

There’s been a push in Lamar to change its mascot, the Savages, but the district so far has kept it. Requests to the school for comment were not returned.

Benavidez brushes off many of the complaints, noting the effects these mascots have on Indigenous students, as cited by national studies and stories shared by people who testified during the legislative session, including Jeanvieve.

“If this was any other kind of harm, we would say, ‘no, stop it.’ We wouldn’t say give them more time to pay for them to do things that hurt children,” Benavidez said.

Ernest House, Jr., the former executive director of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, said the new law mirrors the recommendations of the committee on which he served. House is a member of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Colorado, and said people often don’t realize that American Indians are still here today.

“Ultimately that’s what this piece of legislation does, it pulls us out of that black and white photograph that you see in museums and where a lot of people think we are stuck as a people in this black and white photograph in the 1800s when we’re so much more than that,” House said.

And the schools don’t have to replace the mascots immediately or at all, which is where much of their costs come from, Benavidez argued.

They could just remove the derogatory mascots and not replace them with anything.

But schools say not having a mascot is not an option.

“The school mascot is a source of pride for the community, for the school community, for families, for athletic organizations,” Jenkins said. “That mascot is something that folks hold tight to. It’s really a fabric of the community.”

Late last year, Denver’s South High School changed its mascot for a different reason. Under the leadership of a principal who identifies as Black and Mexican, the school replaced its “Rebels” mascot, a nod to the Confederacy, with the “Ravens.”

The replacement costs were upwards of \$350,000 and the school is removing the last remnants of the mascot this summer, months after the official name change.

Principal Bobby Thomas has been pushing for the change since he started three years ago. He built upon the work of a predecessor in the 1980s, he’s only the second leader of color since then.

Thomas said he started with small rebranding efforts because of pushback, particularly from alumni. It was so ingrained in the school’s culture, with even certain terms being used during football plays.

He worked with parents, students and alumni to eventually get buy-in at all levels: public and private, conceptual and financial.

Despite the money and effort (and continued anger from some), “it’s so worth it because now I’m leading in a way that how I feel and what we believe in our values are aligned to our actions,” Thomas said.

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Native American Basketball Invitational attracts largest turnout in 18 years

The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) returns in 2021 with one of its largest tournaments ever hosted.

The NABI has been called one of the largest Indigenous basketball competitions in the U.S. It was first launched in 2003 by current CEO/President GinaMarie Scarpa, former Phoenix Suns player Mark West and the late Scott Poleski and is held annually in Phoenix, Ariz.

The NABI has hosted over 15,000 Native youth, representing over 300 tribes and have granted approximately \$250,000 in scholarship funds.

When COVID-19 first began to spread throughout the U.S. in 2020, Scarpa knew the tournament would have to be canceled for 2020, and even thought it would continue to be shut down in 2021.

She said she then remembered how important the tournament was to the Native American community and made a decision to dig in her heels and get the tournament up and running again in 2021.

With thanks to Scarpa’s determination and the 2021 sponsors, ranging from the Phoenix Suns, Nike, Gila River Indian Community and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Phoenix Mercury, NABI was able to host one of their largest tournaments to date. The tournament featured 124 all-Native teams who competed in 434 games in five days.

Many Oklahoma teams competed in the 2021

NABI tournament including the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ R.E.Sp.E.C.T. teams, and the Oklahoma Runners, coached by Reggie Island and Derek Tofpi.

On the fifth day of tournament it came down to two teams in the high school boy’s division competing for the national title ... the Oklahoma Runners and the Young Guns from the Pacific Northwest. The Oklahoma Runners held on until the end, when the Young Guns rallied in the second half with a final score of 61-56. The Young Guns were named national champions.

Coming in second place were the Oklahoma Runners (seniors/juniors) and placing third was yet another Oklahoma Runners team comprised of freshman and sophomores.

Coach Reggie Island has full confidence in his freshman and sophomore players as they prepare and make plans for the next big tournament ... after all there are more games to be played.

“They play so unselfish and have good chemistry along with good defense. They beat some tough teams and went 9-2. And yes we hope to have everyone back for the next 2-3 years. We really preach about loyalty to our players and if they are loyal to us then we show that same loyalty to them. Most of these kids have been playing for me or Derek for a long time. A lot of our success is consistency, so our lineups have a lot of consistency, year in and year out.” – Coach Reggie Island



Oklahoma Runners place 2nd in the 2021 NABI. Pictured front row l-r: #21 Dallen Forsythe, #30 Nolan Parker, #10 Kevin Bigfoot, #25 Karsen Williams, #5 Tevyn Mack, #15 DanQuez Dawsey and Assistant Coach Derek Tofpi. Back row l-r: Head Coach Reggie Island, Kayden Carter, Richard Berry, Jayden Parker and Ryan Island. (Courtesy photos)



Oklahoma Runners, comprised of one junior and the rest freshmen and sophomores, finished the tournament in 3rd place out of 64 teams. The team’s Head Coach is Reggie Island with Assistant Coach Derek Tofpi. Pictured l-r: Breydan Lemos, Matt Tofpi, Evan Roman Nose, Josiah Reveles, James Reveles, Jacob Robertson, DeLos Lonewolf, Logan Sandoval and Dominick HJavern.

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Community Health Representative (CHR) Program Highlight

The Community Health Representative (CHR) Program has five CHRs covering 11 counties and four office staff. All vehicles used by the CHRs park at Concho and the CHRs report to the CHR office daily to pick up their vehicles to provide service to our communities thru transports or home visits, and medication delivery.

Each CHR has a cell phone issued to them to provide service during the week. We will have one CHR on call during the weekend. You may contact the CHR Dispatcher who will direct you to the CHR on call.

“It has been a privilege working for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for more than 28 years. Little did I know this job would become a career that has allowed me to serve and help our communities. We have lost many loved ones during this pandemic due to coronavirus. The CHR Program is blessed to continue to serve and provide care to our Cheyenne and Arapaho people.” Ladonna RomanNose, CHR director said.

“My name is Joyce Bullcoming. I have worked for the CHR Program for 17 years . I live in Elk City, Okla, for some years now and I enjoy what I do. I like working for our people, I enjoy working with our elders and

the youth. I service the Western Oklahoma area but we all transport from different areas also. My work cell number is 405-740-1038 and my personal cell number is 580-210-0796.”

“My name is Janet Bullcoming and I live in Watonga, Okla. I work at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes within the Dept. of Health as a Community Health Representative (CHR). I have been happily serving the Cheyenne and Arapaho people for six years now. I have a passion for my work making sure that my Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples’ health needs are being met. I provide service for 11 counties. You can reach me at 405-397-9281.”

During this pandemic the CHR Program will not turn anyone away. We will continue providing services to our communities and we thank everyone for their patience and support.

Our office hours are M-F, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information or questions call the CHR Office at 405-422-7670 or 405-422-7672.



Ladonna RomanNose
CHR Director



Juanita Trout
CHR



Anthony Laster
CHR



Joyce Bullcoming
CHR



Janet Bullcoming
CHR



Shelly Yates
CHR



Robert Romannose
Dispatcher

CHRs include:

Janet Bullcoming, 405-397-9282
Joyce Bullcoming, 405-740-1038
Anthony Laster, 405-538-6807
Juanita Trout, 405-201-0521
Shelly Yates, 405-246-8439

Office staff includes:

Robert Romannose, CHR Dispatcher, 405-538-6614
Monica Perry, Administrative Assistant, 405-415-6163
Lillian Levi, Data Entry Clerk, 405-593-4687
Ladonna RomanNose, CHR Director, 405-308-9750

Talking Circles promotes healing, in person and virtual

By Gianluca D’Elia, Cronkite News

(PHOENIX, AZ) Angela Burks remembers hearing about COVID-19 reaching the U.S. right before Ash Wednesday last year.

For the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona, the Easter holidays normally are filled with traditional ceremonies, and Burks, a tribal member, feared they would be canceled. She also was seeking support as she coped with her husband’s failing health because of struggles with alcohol.

“It was hard knowing our community wasn’t doing what it needed to feel spiritually well,” said Burks, 31, a graduate student in social work at Arizona State University. “And on top of that, I wasn’t well.”

And so when Arizona State University and the Phoenix nonprofit clinic Native Health started a virtual talking circle series last June, Burks quickly became one of its regulars, finding solace in a space where she could be vulnerable with other Indigenous students in a culturally appropriate way.

Almost every week for the past year,

the group of about 10 students, most of them Indigenous, have gathered on Zoom to participate in a traditional healing practice adapted for the digital age and for a pandemic that pushed most personal interactions online.

For centuries, Native Americans have used talking circles to solve problems and provide healing. Every circle is a little different, depending on the practices of a particular tribe.

Generally, a circle includes opening and closing blessings, the burning of cedar sage as a cleansing ritual, songs, storytelling and an opportunity for each participant to speak. They share going clockwise around the circle, passing a sacred item, such as a talking stick or an eagle feather, meant to serve as a direct connection to a higher power.

It’s all about helping an individual “create a balance within their mind, body and spirit, and with their surroundings,” said Roy Johnston, a Choctaw traditional specialist who has worked with Native Health for more than 15 years. “In that balance, their body is allowed

and their mind is allowed to begin its work to heal.”

Incorporating Indigenous practices like talking circles into health care treatment isn’t new but has grown in significance during the pandemic, largely because of the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Native communities.

Native Americans are more than 1.5 times as likely to get COVID-19 than whites, and they die at more than twice the rate, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Navajo Nation, whose reservation is the largest in the U.S., stretching across parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah – was hit especially hard. More than 1,300 of the reservation’s 170,000 residents have died of COVID-19.

Throughout the Southwest, organizations that serve Indigenous communities have worked to keep talking circles alive through the pandemic.

Andrea Klimas is the clinical director and a talking circle facilitator at Phoenix’s Native American Connections, which provides health care and community development services.

See TALKING CIRCLES pg. 13



Eagle feathers and dried sage in a seashell are among the sacred items that Andrea Klimas, clinical director at Native American Connections, brings to facilitate talking circles. Incorporating Indigenous practices like talking circles into health care treatment isn’t new but has grown in significance during the pandemic, largely because of the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Native communities. (Photo / Gianluca D’Elia/Cronkite News)



Strawberries: Lowering Health Risks

Tara Conway, MS, RDN, LD, CDE
Jenna Crider, RD, LD, IBCLC
C&A Diabetes Wellness Program

OMRF Study Shows Strawberries Lower Serious Health Risks

Strawberries are in season! They are plump, juicy, sweet and AFFORDABLE. The next time you are in the produce section you might pick up a container of these sweet delights for a treat and for your health. As little as 130 calories (2.5 cups of strawberries) per day could make a significant, positive impact on your heart health.

A new study led by Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation found that this amount (2.5 cups of strawberries) is needed to lessen our risk for heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

“Strawberries don’t require a prescription, and they’re available year round,” stated Hal Scofield, M.D., who led the study.

It’s not a new concept that strawberries are good for our health, but the specific amount that is especially impactful is. The study focused on those considered obese, that had

a daily intake of 32 g of freeze-dried strawberry powder mixed with water (equivalent to 14 oz of fresh strawberries) lowered the participants’ blood glucose, improved insulin resistance, improved good cholesterol and lowered LDL cholesterol.

Researchers found that whole strawberries are the most beneficial d/t fiber and other components. However, Scofield noted that freeze-dried powdered berries retain the nutrients of fresh berries. Freeze-dried berries provide versatility and another way to consume berries with less volume. You may even want to try powdered berries in your fruit smoothies, sprinkle on your oatmeal or toast to bump up the nutrients.

Scofield’s lab has also shown that strawberries are an anti-inflammatory that can reduce pain associated with osteoarthritis.

The bottom line is to eat well. It’s recommended to have five servings of fruits and vegetables a day.

This study is proof in the importance.

Remember your hand-washing techniques, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Remember to wash all surfaces daily and don’t forget to clean your cell phone, door knobs, car handles and steering wheel and don’t forget to wear a face mask.

For a personalized weight management plan that meets your individual needs, consult a registered dietitian either at the Diabetes Wellness Center or the Clinton Service Unit.

For more information and tips on health and wellness contact Tara Conway, Diabetes Wellness Program at 405-422-7685 or toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27685 or by email, tconway@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov., or Jenna Crider at 405-422-7656 or toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27656 or by email, jcrider@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov.

Source: <https://omrf.org/2021/06/17/omrf-study-shows-strawberries-lower-serious-health-risks>.

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Two Cheyenne and Arapaho youth chosen for U.S. Basketball Games’ National Tournament in Atlanta, GA



Lilly Thomas

Competing against the best of the best, with over 20 teams from various states in the U.S., Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal youth Ronnie Redshin and Lilly Thomas seize the opportunity to showcase their talents at the next level.

Halftime Sports U.S. Basketball Games is hosting the sixth annual U.S. Basketball Games National Tournament from Aug. 6-8 in Atlanta, Ga., where over 2,500 players will play against the best of the best teams from different states across the U.S.

OIN

continued from pg. 1

required that they keep an unrestricted membership extending to all tribes and non-Indians.

“During 1988 and 1989, the OIN club officers concentrated more on establishing the club and raising funds to enable them to host a powwow, records show there was a young lady who represented the committee, however it would not be until 1989 when the club officially elected their first club princess,” Morton said.

The club would select their first club princess in 1989, Tommye Dayle Simpson of Geary, Okla., who represented the club for three consecutive years. In the following years, the junior princess and tiny tot princess was added.

In 1990, when the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Business Committee offered the use of the old football field as the newly designated powwow grounds, the OIN club held their first powwow in Concho, Okla.

Throughout the years there has been additions and improvements made to the powwow grounds. In 2009, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Roads Program constructed the road that runs through the powwow grounds and was named and dedicated to James Hawk Sr., in recognition of the first chairman and founder of the OIN powwow committee.

Morton said Jame’s wife, Patricia Hawk, has served as a mentor to the OIN powwow committee over the years.

“She worked alongside her husband to promote and support the annual festivities. Since Jame’s passing, she has continued to lend her support to the successive OIN committee members and officers, and it is her wish to keep the OIN legacy going and she has graciously provided input, guidance and support, which we are truly grateful for,” Morton said.

Each year the OIN pow-

wow has been estimated to bring in around 1500-2000 people, from traditional powwow dancers to various vendors selling their goods and other tribal citizens to participate in the powwow’s Summerfest activities.

Morton said OIN powwow has always been an event that not only the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal citizens enjoy, but also other tribes near and far.

“I don’t recall what year the Summerfest activities first started, but the addition of all those activities definitely generated more people attending the powwow. It’s just an exciting time and I enjoy seeing our Native people coming together, having fun and good fellowship,” Morton said.

Each year, Morton said the powwow committee normally begins their planning as early as May in selecting head staff, getting biographies, making forms for registrations, coordinating with various departments for services and ordering items for the powwow.

“It may not seem like much, but it’s a lot of work, and our committee has been doing it for two decades now, so we have it down to a ‘T,’” Morton said.

When COVID-19 struck in 2020, Morton said it affected their fundraising efforts for the powwow.

“As a committee, how you generate funds for your event depends on fundraising events, which for us was hosting monthly benefit dances and having an occasional Indian taco sale. We were unable to host any fundraisers at the beginning of the year due to the numerous deaths in the communities,” Morton said.

To show respect for the families in mourning, Morton said the committee decided to take a step back and not hold any activities for OIN.

“As the pandemic progressed, other things became

more important, like keeping our families safe, staying home, practicing social distance, sanitizing, wearing mask, our committee was relieved when the tribe closed all community halls and powwow grounds to keep the people safe,” Morton said.

Franklin said canceling OIN at the time was the best thing they had to do to keep people safe.

“We lost a lot of elders, there’s going to be a lot of people that’s not going to be here and that’s going to be sad because we look to a lot of people that help us everywhere in our Cheyenne and Arapaho community, as well as other tribes. We lost a lot of people, that’s the thing that’s going to hurt, but our people’s safety is more important,” Franklin said.

In determining it was the best time to bring OIN back for the year, Franklin said they held a committee meeting and went from there.

“We had a couple fundraisers to get going, and there’s always little things we got to get ready, but we’re ready, we just have to make sure our grounds are done and just making sure everything’s done. We’ve had some people step in and are sponsoring different things so that’s what’s going to make us go, is our people pitching in and helping us, so I think we’re going to get it done this year,” Franklin said.

Morton said that when Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana opened up the community halls and powwow arenas, they knew it was time to start planning.

“We are aware of the Delta Variant and the need to still practice social distancing, sanitizing and wearing masks, we will be working with the Department of Health to ensure that preventive measures to reduce the chances of infection are in place,” Morton said.

Morton said since the



Ronnie Redshin

basketball that’s played on the east side of the state and on the west side of the state are vastly different.

“On the east side of the state, everybody sets up half court offenses and walks the ball up the court, I love the teams and the players from the west side, they’re smaller in stature so they run a lot, Ronnie’s exactly what coaches are looking for whenever they’re running the ball,” Johnson said.

Out of his 12 players on

See US BASKETBALL pg. 13

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2021 Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow

Introducing the 2021 Oklahoma Indian Nations Princesses and Head Staff:

Senior Miss



Amaya Simone Bonilla-Harris, a citizen of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, is the daughter of Jennifer Bonilla and Josh Scotten and granddaughter of Albert and Freda (Tapedo) Gipp all of Lawrence, Kansas. Amaya is the great-granddaughter of the late Burgess and Millicent Tapedo. The family also wishes to acknowledge the late Fred and Fern Littlecalf. The Littlecalf's were a strong influence in their upbringing and appreciation for the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

Amaya was given her Kiowa name, Mato-igah-maw (Whirlwind) by her big brother, Burgess. Amaya's

Amaya Simone Bonilla-Harris

great-grandparents brought her into the arena at a young age. Amaya's first set of bead work was designed and created by Tessa Robledo and was gifted to her by her great-grandparents. Amaya is following in the steps of her aunt Elena Diaz who also served as Senior Miss Oklahoma Indian Nations.

Next fall, Amaya will attend Haskell Indian Nations University to continue her academic and athletic journey. She will be a dual athlete participating in volleyball and track and field. Amaya attended Lawrence High School in Lawrence, Kansas and lettered in track and field and volleyball. She qualified for the state meet in 2021, 2019 and 2018 in the javelin and placed in the top eight each year. This year in her last season she was the Sunflower League Champion and selected to the All-City and Sunflower League first-team for track and field. Amaya volunteers locally with civic and community organizations.

Amaya and her family are honored to support the Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow. The family will host two contest specials on Friday night for teen girls. The categories will be teen girl's cloth and buckskin.

Junior Miss



Violet Roman Nose

scendant of the Kiowa and Creek Tribes of Oklahoma. Her Arapaho name is Nookuseic Biiceis, which means Morning Cedar, and was given to her by Alveena Friday of Ethete, Wyo.

Violet attends Darlington Public Schools and will be in the third grade fall 2021. She currently plays basketball with Team Rumble and the OK Runners in Oklahoma City. Violet enjoys spending time with her family, going on field trips, drawing mermaids, and dancing. Her dream is to play basketball in the WNBA and to become a mermaid.

On behalf of our family, we want to thank the Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow organization for selecting Violet as the 2021 Jr. Princess. She is honored and will do her best to represent the powwow, her family, and tribes. Hohou (thank you)!

Little Miss



Riley Saumty Flurry

families. Riley is a proud graduate of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Concho Head Start Center. Presently, she's in kindergarten at Darlington Public School. Basketball, soccer, t-ball and swimming are among a few of her extra-curricular activities. Riley also has a love for all forms of dance.

Riley was brought into the arena as soon as she could walk and has made the powwow circle her other home. The support and guidance she has been shown is helping mold her into a strong confident Indigenous young lady who is working to become a role model for other young children. Riley is excited to serve as Little Miss Oklahoma Indian Nations. She and her family want to thank the committee for affording her the opportunity to represent the organization and her community. Aho.

Riley Saumty Flurry, "Ohn Bay Bahn Bohn Dah" (She Brings the Light), is the daughter of Jason and Deidra Flurry. She is an enrolled citizen of the Comanche Nation and is also of Kiowa and Choctaw decent. Riley comes from the Saumty, Mowatt, Pewo and Work

Master of Ceremonies:

Alan Fletcher



Ivit-hit-shive... Whookie-wha-ha-maughts,

Greetings my Cheyenne name is White Antelope. My English name is Alan Fletcher. It's an honor to serve as your Master of Ceremonies and I'd like to welcome each and everyone of you to this year's 31st annual Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow.

I have had the pleasure to serve as a Master of Ceremonies for over 20 years at various powwows, traditional gatherings, as well as community events.

As your Master of Ceremonies I will do my best to briefly explain the different dance categories and the protocol of the powwow.

Once again, welcome to our Cheyenne and Arapaho community and one of the best powwows in the world. Please make yourself at home and enjoy a blessed day of fellowship love and laughter. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask one of the powwow committee members or reach out and meet a new friend, anyone would be happy to help you.

May the Creator continue to bless you and your family with Piveaught/Ethete/Good Health and Happiness.

Head Singer:

Overton 'OT' Sankey



Hello my relatives. My name is "Straight Man," also known as Overton "OT" Sankey. I come from White Rabbits Band of Southern Arapahos and Southern Cheyenne. I've been at the drum since I

was walking.

My late grandfather paid a "rifle" for me to be able to sit at the Sundance drum. And when I started my first song a horse was given in honor. I've made a few songs, but mostly I encourage the use of our older songs as well. I'm very thankful for all of my teachers in life. I do my best to carry on as they did in the past. I'm excited about our future. So very proud to have been asked to serve as head singer for the Oklahoma Indian Nations Pow-wow. Thanks to the powwow committee and to Dara Franklin for all that she does.

Ha-Ho!

Head Lady Gourd Dancer:

Danielle Goodblanket Cling



Greetings! My name is Danielle Cling. I am from Clinton, Okla. where I was born and raised. I am a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. I am full blooded Cheyenne.

My parents are the late Irvin "Toby" & Dorothy Goodblanket. My maternal grandparents were the late Horace & Emma (Standing Elk) Howlingwater from the Redmoon Community near Hammon, Okla. My grandmother Emma was Northern Cheyenne from Birney, Mont. My paternal grandparents were the late Clarence & Ethel Stoneroad and the late Tennyson & Ruth Goodblanket.

My Cheyenne Name is Heseecota'e meaning "Medicine Woman." I have been married for 15 years to Billy Cling and we have a daughter Darlene Goodblanket and our first granddaughter Genevieve Goodblanket. I also have two siblings, my brother

er who is a Cheyenne Chief, Jason Goodblanket and my sister Lavonne Oldman. I have been employed with Lucky Star Casino in Clinton for over 16 years. I am proud of the communities I come from both Clinton and Hammon.

I am a former Jingle dress dancer. I sew dresses and do beadwork. I try to be more active with our ceremonies and stay in touch with our traditions. My mother Dorothy taught me now to sew and to bead. She also taught me how to be a strong Cheyenne woman. I really do enjoy myself every year at the powwow. My daughter Darlene was a Jr. Princess in 2008 for the powwow.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dara and the powwow committee for asking me to be the Head Lady Gourd Dancer for this year's powwow. I feel very honored and grateful they thought about me. This pandemic made us all rethink life and about family. I haven't been more closer to my family than I ever have in a long time. We did have COVID hit our family, our niece Sophia was hospitalized for a month and she's still experiencing the affects of it. My sSister Lavonne got it twice. We are thankful that Maheo blessed them and seen them through the sickness. Coming back into the arena after years is the best celebration for me and for our family. Ne-a ese!

Color Guard Buddy Bond

Co-Master of Ceremonies:

Nathan Littlehawk



Hello, my name is Nathan Littlehawk. My Cheyenne name is Man-on-Cloud. I am an enrolled citizen of the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. I am also Navajo. I was born and raised in Watonga, Okla. and currently reside in El Reno, Okla. with my fiancé Kimmi Baca and my three nephews, Noah, Issac and Gabriel Scraper. I am the son of Millie Youngbear and the late Dean Littlehawk. My maternal grand-

parents are the late Arapaho Chief Clinton Youngbear and Blossom Goodbear. My paternal grandparents are the late Tom Littlehawk and (living) Pat Hawk. I received my first Master of Ceremony (MC) gig for S.A.G.E. Committee (Southern Arapaho Gathering Events) back in 2012 and have had the honor to MC for several benefit dances since then. I have been working for Lucky Star Casino in Watonga where I have been employed for 10 years in the Food & Beverage and Maintenance Departments. It is an honor to Co-MC for this year's Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow where I am following in the footsteps of my grandpa Clinton Youngbear and will enjoy this year's gathering. Thank you for this honor. A-Ho!

Head Man Gourd Dancer:

Kyle Spotted Horse



Kyle Spotted Horse is honored to be selected as this year's 2021 OIN Head Man Gourd Dancer. Kyle is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, his mother is Teresa Murray and his dad is Michael Murray. Maternal grandparents are Charlotte Lumpmouth and the late Gary Kodaseet. Kyle's father is Tommy Alan Spotted Horse and his paternal grandparents are Irene Spotted Horse and the late Thomas Spotted Horse. Kyle is married to Karen Lasterspotted Horse and they have a beautiful daughter, Kiley Spotted Horse

Kyle is currently president of Hammerstone Construction Group, an enterprise of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and has enjoyed being back around

the Cheyenne and Arapaho people since moving away from Tulsa in 2018. Kyle lived and worked in Tulsa for 11 years in the construction industry, eventually becoming vice-president of a Tulsa construction company, McIntosh Mechancial. Kyle is always happy and eager to share his experience in the construction industry with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Kyle is a member of the Native American Church, Arapaho Chapter No. 5, and the bugler for the Kiowa Gourd Clan. During his free time, he and his family enjoy spending time with other family, going to the lake, and participating in local tribal customs and doings.

Kyle would like to say, "OIN has always been a special part of my life growing up, I have lots of wonderful memories of family get-togethers and laughter. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the OIN committee for their thoughtful consideration to allow me to be part of this annual event. I look forward to seeing everyone at OIN this year, Hohou!"

Head Man War Dancer:

Louie Sage



Hello, I am Louie Sage and honored to be chosen as the headman dancer for this year's Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow. I am the son of the late Bill Sage (Cheyenne/Arapaho) and Jo Neda Sage (Comanche/Arapaho). I have been dancing since my childhood and grew up dancing in C&A country with my father. I was brought into the arena as a traditional dancer and have been dancing in this

manner ever since.

I currently reside in Ponca City with my wife Laura who I have been married to for 24 wonderful years. We have four daughters, Ricki-Lynn, Makayla, Whitney, Catherine, and our adopted daughter Lyndee McClellan. We have four grandchildren, Ezekiel, Jessica, Joe Jr and Joslyn.

I enjoy traveling as a family across the US dancing and competing in our respective categories. We always enjoy attending Indian Nations Powwow and I would like to thank the committee in honoring me with serving as your headman dancer. I would like to wish all dancers good luck and safe travels.

2021 Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow

Introducing the 2021 Oklahoma Indian Nations Princesses and Head Staff:

Head Lady War Dancer:



My name is Toni Lynn Kaulaity and I'm a citizen of the Kiowa Tribe. My Kiowa name is T'sone Pah Gya Mah, or Fine Plume Woman. It was given to me by my maternal great-grandmother,

Toni Lynn Kaulaity

the late Laura Sankadota Tahlo.

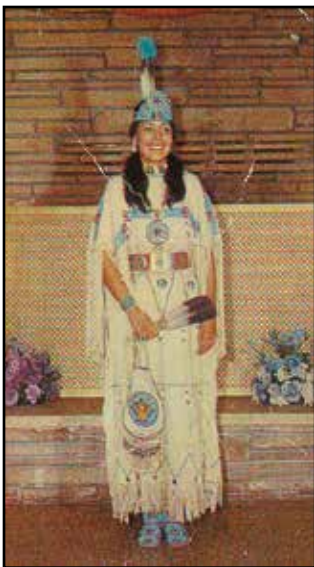
My parents are Anthony Kaulaity and Lynette Tsothigh Kaulaity. Grandparents are the late Hubert Tsothigh and Hattie Tahlo Tsothigh.

I am a stay-at-home mom. My companion of 15 years is Scott Johnson and we have our two boys, Hilo Tsothigh Johnson and Kaleo Tahlee Johnson. We reside in Del City and enjoy spending time together with our extended families.

I would like to thank the committee for inviting me this weekend, and I look forward to representing my family and tribe. A'ho

Elder of the Year:

Lucy Melvina Snyder



Honored Elder: Lucy Melvina Snyder

I am very happy to have been selected as the Honored Elder for this year's Oklahoma Indian Nation's powwow. I am proud to say that I come from the Hoffman family.

My grandparents were the late Albert and Vinnie (WhiteEagle) Hoffman. They lived on the original WhiteEagle allotments west of Hammon, Okla.

My parents were the late

Fred and Kathryn (Young-bull) Hoffman. I have three older brothers and four younger sisters. We all went to a two-room country school at Herring, Okla. I attended school from the 1st through 8th grade and graduated from Hammon High School. The four younger sisters graduated from boarding schools. I attended Draughons School of Business in Tulsa, Okla.

In 1964 Mr. Ed Burns selected me as the Cheyenne Princess for the Anadarko Indian Exposition, being the first time I was able to represent my tribe. My father was Cheyenne and my mother was Cheyenne and Arapaho. Mr. Burns did me the honor of keeping me as the Cheyenne Princess for two more years, so we camped at Anadarko three years in a row, 1964, 1965 and 1966. The first year we had one tent, the second year we had two tents and the last year we had three tents. I am glad to say that my parents took in family and friends who had no place to eat or

Arena Director:



Timothy Fletcher aka Haukoo I am an Arapaho. I was born in Watonga, Okla., raised in Geary, Okla. and I reside in El Reno, Okla. I was married to a special woman May 9, 2012, Cheri Chalepah Fletcher. We have two goofy boys, little Timmy Lee Fletcher Jr. and Kendrick Lee Fletcher, and an older son Xavier

sleep during the fair. My parents were always good to all our friends with eight children, this involved a lot of people, and to this day most of these friendships are everlasting.

In 1968, during the Vietnam conflict, I joined the Air Force. I have always been very proud of being a Veteran and enjoyed my time serving our Nation. I met and married during this time. Naturally after marriage, I got pregnant and at that time I was discharged. Six months later they changed the regulations to allow mothers to remain in service. We lived in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania until my daughter was 13 and then we moved home.

I would like to thank these ladies that have done such a wonderful job of running the Oklahoma Indian Nations powwow, year after year. They have always picked the best head staff and assistants to help. I am so happy to be a part of your program. It is so great to be a Native American.

Timothy Fletcher

Lee Redman. Also three step-daughters, Ina, Angel and Sunshine. And one grandson, Jayce William. I hope to meet them one day. My parents are Mary Fletcher and Fred Mosqueda. I have two sisters, Clarinda and Millie, one brother Stephen 'Stops on Time' Fletcher, and a whole bunch of nieces and nephews.

My late grandparents are John Kendrick Fletcher Sr. and Wilma Josephine Fletcher. I work for Lucky Star Casino in Concho. I would like to thank the Oklahoma Indian Nation powwow committee for asking me to be the arena director and to work along Chris Eaglenest.

Hohou. May you all be blessed with life and celebrate the fellowship among our people and tribe.

Arena Director: Chris Eaglenest

Contest Coordinator:

Marshal Williamson



Marshal Williamson Neen Wâpimê. I come from the Fish clan of the Sauk people. I am adopted Thunder clan. I also represent the Kiowa, Caddo, Mvskoke Creek, and the Choctaw Nations. I have served as an arena director (AD), Master of Ceremony (MC), as well as singing and dancing grass at powwows mainly across the state. I have been thankful

to be asked to be the contest coordinator at Concho once again. I have connections with people across C&A country that I will have for the rest of my life. I want to give back to the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho people in any way that I can. They gave me my start as an AD and as MC in my powwow career and I will always remember that. Ketepi to the powwow committee for asking me to be a part of their celebration!

Marshal is a third generation arena director following in the footsteps of his grandpa Cliff Reeder and uncle Derek Reeder. He most recently served as Master of Ceremony for the Haskell Graduation Powwow in May. Marshal enjoys grass dancing and travelling to powwows. Marshal is the son of Sonya Orange and the late Josh Williamson. He is a former student of Darlington and Calumet schools.



Honored Flag (Friday):

Emmett Redbird Sr., U.S. Army



Emmett Red Bird Sr. had begun his service in 1964 for the U.S. Army in the 45th Infantry Division. Emmett worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in the Economic Development Program and worked for the Lucky Star Casino in Security.

Emmett had made his home in El Reno, Okla. with his companion Stella Red Bird. Emmett has left behind five sons, one daughter, three brothers and four sisters.

Honored Flag (Saturday):

George Edward Eaglenest, U.S. Marine Corp



George Edward Eaglenest was born on Oct. 20, 1940 in Concho, Okla. He was a 1960 graduate of Sacred Heart High School

and a Marine Corps veteran serving two tours in Vietnam. After his military service he worked for a short time with Rock Island Railroad before beginning his career at Concho Indian School. After its closure, he worked at the Riverside Indian School, retiring as a home-living specialist. After retirement, he worked with Lucky Star Casino. George was a member of the Sacred Heart Church and enjoyed fishing, grilling food, spending time with family, and attending grandchildren's activities. With his great sense of humor, he came up with

many many one-liners. On April 4, 1981 George married Betty Coffey. Betty survives him. He is also survived by children and their spouses. Carrie Thompson, B.J. and Tony Walker, George W. Eaglenest and Heather Starr, and Bobby Eaglenest.; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, all of El Reno, Okla.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Ruth Wisel Eaglenest and three sisters, Jerdine Howry, Mary Ellen Maples and Thelma Eaglenest.

Honored Flag (Sunday):

Angelo Sleeper Sr., U.S. Army



Angelo Sleeper Sr. was born in Oklahoma City on May 7, 1946 to Stanley Sleeper and Pearl Tallbull-Sleeper.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Angelo Sleeper Jr. and sisters, Wanda Sleeper, Donna Gomez, Helen Perez, Phyllis Reta, Sandra Bedoka, and Ruthanne Hummingbird.

He is survived by his sisters Mary Little and Rose Lobaugh. He is also survived by his wife Susan Nimsey-Sleeper, 12 children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Angelo was drafted and served in United States Army-1st Battalion, 50th Infantry, and 173rd Airborne. He arrived in Vietnam on the day of

his birthday, May 7th in 1968. He completed his tour in the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged in 1969. Angelo's grandfather John Sleeper Sr. was a World War I Veteran, his father Stanley Sleeper was a World War II Veteran who also survived the Bataan Death March, and as mentioned Angelo Sleeper Sr. was a Vietnam Veteran.

Our family is very honored and thankful to be asked to fly the flag of our loved one at this year's Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow celebration. Ho'hou.

DANCE SCHEDULE
Friday: Gourd Dance @ 6:00 p.m.
Grand Entry @ 8:00 p.m.
Saturday: Gourd Dance @ 2:00 p.m.
Grand Entry @ 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: Gourd Dance @ 2:00 p.m.
Grand Entry @ 7:00 p.m.
Specials to be held during Afternoon Gourd Dance Sessions only. No Specials after Grand Entry.

OKLAHOMA INDIAN NATION CONTEST CATEGORIES
Tiny Tots (Must make Friday Grand Entry).....Ages 6 & Under
Juniors (Must make Friday Grand Entry).....Ages 7-16
Adults (Must make 2 Grand Entries).....Ages 17-54
Golden Age (Must make 2 Grand Entries).....Ages 55 & Over

Saturday & Sunday Gourd Dance Sessions will be held at the Concho Community Hall

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES

DO NOT WAIT, VACCINATE!

The Department of Health and IHS have collaborated to offer vaccinations during the OIN POWWOW. Schedule appointments with the Department of Health. Walk-ins accepted upon availability.

Make appointments with these numbers:
Allison @ 405-778-4419
Ann @ 405-308-9214
Christina @ 405-422-7666

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

David Burton Hawk Sr.

David Burton Hawk Sr. was born in Okarche, Okla. on July 15, 1969 and made his heavenly journey on July 15, 2021.

David was employed with the Kingfisher 911 emergency response center as a dispatcher. He was a former police officer with the Kingfisher Police Dept. He was also a former BIA tribal police officer. He was employed with the EMS division of the Kingfisher Fire Dept. and was also a forest fire fighter with the Concho crew out of Concho, Okla. He graduated from the Police Academy in New Mexico in 2000 and was a member of the Sacred Bowstring Society. He enjoyed singing karaoke and playing pool with his friends. He loved joking and laughing with his family and friends. He also enjoyed spending time with his family. He loved to go to flea

markets and was a big fan of WWE wrestling. He was also a huge OU FAN. When his children were in school, he was a dedicated father and attended all their activities. David was a proud grandfather to his only granddaughter Wynter Rose Showers. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Gloria Hawk, his two sons David Burton Hawk II and Ethan Sundance Hawk, his daughter Feather Diane Hawk and his granddaughter Wynter Rose Showers all of the home in Kingfisher, Okla., his parents Burton and Diane Hawk of Kingfisher, two brothers Moses Hail Man Hawk of Loyal, Okla., and Bruce Lonewolf Hawk of Kingfisher, and one sister Consuelo Marie Castrejon of Kingfisher. He is preceded in death by one sister Nena Rose Hawk, his paternal grandparents Lefty and Nellie Roman-



nose, his maternal grandparents, Eugene White Thunder and Donna Mae Wheeler.

David's wife, Gloria, and the rest of his family appreciate all the thoughts and prayers and support throughout these difficult days. Ha'ho NEA'ESE

A wake service was held July 19 at the Kingfisher Emergency Response Center in Kingfisher, Okla. Funeral service was held July 20, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Kingfisher Cemetery.

Pauline Blind Harjo

Pauline Blind Harjo was born July 29, 1938 in Concho, Okla. She departed this world on July 15, 2021 in Riverton, Wyo.

Pauline was the daughter of Jesse Blind Sr. of Geary, Okla. and Marie Spottedcorn Blind also of Geary. She was full blood Arapaho and an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Pauline attended Concho boarding school, graduated El Reno High and Southwest Oklahoma State University, earning an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration. She was a Financial Analyst with Lucent Technologies where she retired. She was an advocate for education, as she was a counselor for Native students, served on the board and was a co-founder for the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribal College. She volunteered with the Native American Pioneers within Lucent Technologies in mentoring stu-

dents within the Oklahoma City public schools. Pauline was also a dedicated member of the El Reno Indian Baptist church, serving as the treasurer for a number of years. Pauline was the widow of John Henry Harjo of Seminole, Okla. She is survived by her brother Jesse Blind Jr., her children, Phyllis Dawn Nabils of Broken Arrow, Okla., Kevin Mark Harjo of El Reno, Okla., Leah Burrows of Vernal, Utah, Jeffrey Todd Harjo of El Reno, and Paula Pawnee also of El Reno. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Brian Orlando Swain, Rossi Adam Harjo, Anthony Eric Laster, Karen Dawn SpottedHorse, Hana Nabils Hulett, Laith Safwan Nabils, John Mark Harjo, Dana Marie Harjo, Luis Ramon Burrows, Zade Safwan Nabils, and Rachel Sayhetha Burrows, River Echo Harjo, and Kaylee Ciara Pawnee. Pauline was blessed with 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great



granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her parents Jesse and Marie Blind, sisters, Catherine Marie Blind, Lula Lorene Blind, Linda Louise Blind, Dorothy Blind, and baby girl Irene Blind.

A traditional all night wake service was held July 21 at the Concho Community Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral service was held July 22 at the Geary First Baptist Church in Geary, Okla., officiated by Rev. Jay Mule and Rev. Patricia Stoneroad Waysepappy, followed by an interment at the Geary Sunset Cemetery.

Tina Lynn Sealy

Tina Lynn Sealy was born Aug. 4, 1965 in Daly City, Calif. She passed away July 18, 2021 in Oklahoma City.

Tina was a homemaker and a member of the Chief Cornerstone Baptist Church in Geary, Okla.

She is survived by her son Clifford Little Raven of Geary, daughter Vickey Shawnee of Oklahoma City, brothers, Clifford Sealy Jr., of Weleetka, Okla., Jerry Fire of Geary and Keith Sealy of Oklahoma City, sisters, Patricia Ann King of Ada, Okla., and Annabel Lorentz of Geary, and grandchildren, Christian Little Raven, Jace Little Raven and Jaylee Little Raven.

Her father Clifford Charles Sealy, mother Cynthia Ann Candy-Fire Sealy, sisters, Iris Sealy and Barbara Jean Toney, brother James Gilbert Sealy, son Zackary Lorentz and her husband Al Lorentz preceded her in death.

Wake service was held July 23 at the Concho Community Center in Concho,



Okla. Funeral service was held July 24, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery.

Big Eagle Diamond Crosses

Levi Big Eagle

Facebook.com/Big Eagle Diamond Crosses | levibigeagle08@gmail.com

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(580)791-1792

VOTE FRANCES WHITE THUNDER FOR CHEYENNE DISTRICT 2 LEGISLATOR ON OCT. 5, 2021



My name is Frances White Thunder. I am a candidate for Cheyenne District 2 Legislator. Striving to address the concerns of tribal members, effectively communicating with my district and providing information regarding the state of affairs for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes are goals of mine if I'm elected. Another goal of mine is to work diligently to help move our tribes forward.

My paternal grandfather is Edward White Thunder Sr., who was a full blood Cheyenne chief. My paternal grandmother is Jane Little Hawk White Thunder Blackburn and she, too, was full blood Cheyenne. My father is Robert White Thunder, who was a full blood Cheyenne Kit Fox headman.

My maternal grandfather is John Blackman, a full blood Arapaho chief. My maternal grand-

mother is Esther Howling Crane Blackman, who was full blood Cheyenne. My mother is Ida Blackman White Thunder, who was half Arapaho and half Cheyenne.

I am blessed with four children, twenty grandchildren, and thirty great grandchildren.

Education

Graduated from Geary High School

Graduated from University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma as a double major and 3.85 GPA

Bachelor of Arts – American Indian Studies

Bachelor of Science – Business

I belong to Phi Theta Kappa and they awarded me with a \$6,000 per semester scholarship to the University of Oklahoma

Employment

IHS – BIA - I worked for fourteen years altogether at Clinton Indian Hospital in Medical Records, Concho Indian School Administration, and Osage Agency, Pawhuska, Oklahoma.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

In August 1988, I was able to set up the Tax Commission in eight months and get it operational and it's still functioning today.

Southern Ute Tribe

I worked for five years

as Severance Tax Administrator for the Southern Ute Tribe. My work included collecting severance tax on oil and gas removed from the Southern Ute reservation which is almost one million acres, and to audit oil and gas companies doing business with the Tribe. When we transitioned our information to computer I transferred all of our accounting records to a database, including all well information, production data, and severance taxes collected.

I worked for 15 years as a Royalty Auditor for the Southern Ute Tribe. My work consisted of auditing oil and gas companies with leases on the reservation who removed and sold gas. As an auditor I was required:

1) To be knowledgeable in the chemistry of gas and determine the different components that comprise natural gas, since all of the components were sold.

2) To understand gas marketing and to determine if the price received by the company was the correct price.

3) To know lease data such as acreage, well locations, well depth, location by section, township, range, be able to read maps and well meters.

4) To know where the

gas was sold after it left the reservation and how much was received after sale, and then after 2000 to know Index Zone prices.

5) To be able calculate the correct royalty due and the amount of royalty received by the Tribe for all producing gas wells of companies being audited.

My education and work experience will be useful to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. I not only worked for the federal government and our Tribes, I worked for one of the most progressive and wealthiest tribes in the U.S.

I look forward to working with other elected officials, tribal employees, and other individuals and entities to the advantage of our Tribes. My goal is to help take our Tribes into the 21st century and away from the old way of conducting business and more importantly, to help our People as well as to provide accountability and transparency. One of the first steps necessary is to make sure that all entities of the Tribes, including all federal programs as well as tribal programs, casinos, and any other sources of revenue are audited. This will enable us to find out exactly where the Tribes are financially and hopefully where and



how Tribal revenue was spent.

In addition to accountability and transparency, issues that currently are of concern to our People are the enrollment blood quantum and recognition of out of district tribal members. If elected I will be open to suggestions that you feel should be a priority of our elected officials. I also encourage and welcome any input regarding ideas that you

as tribal members can contribute to accomplish a resolution to your immediate concerns.

I feel that being open and honest with our tribal members will establish trust and eventually make us the progressive tribes that we once were. I humbly ask for your vote on Oct. 5, 2021.

Nea'ese, Ha Hou' and Thank you

Frances White Thunder

BOARDING SCHOOLS

continued from pg. 3

and received funding from the federal government as part of systemic efforts to dissolve Native American cultures and languages.

Ahead of the federal investigation, boarding school alumni, tribal leaders and activists described a complicated relationship between tribes and former schools, and the impact the institutions will continue to have on the state’s Native American communities even after the investigation is complete.

Students who died at boarding schools didn’t receive proper burials in accordance with tribal traditions, said Gordon Yellowman, director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ language and culture program.

“(Tribal members) were never ever given the opportunity to do what we have to do when a child dies,” Yellowman said. “They were never given the love and the dignity that they deserve, and respect that they deserve.”

Honoring the dead now falls to school alumni

For nearly 100 years, the Chilocco school housed Native students from more than 127 tribes from across the Western United States.

The Chilocco National Alumni Association started maintaining the school cemetery in the late 1990s after it had been neglected for decades. Jim Baker graduated from the school in 1960. He was also the school’s first alumnus to serve as superintendent from 1973 to 1978. The alumni association’s desire to honor dead students has compelled the group to maintain the cemetery, he said.

Jim and his wife Charmain Baker, who is also a former Chilocco student, have found dozens of graves at the school that date between 1884 to 1937 through archival research and the use of radar. Originally, none of the school’s graves were marked.

Most of the people buried in the graveyard were Chiloco students, although one grave belongs to the child of a faculty member.

Many of the students buried at Chilocco were orphans who had no one to claim their bodies after they died, Jim Baker said. Even if students did have family, transportation was often too slow to ensure the body could be brought home in time to preserve it, leading to a burial at the school.

Scattered records have made the process to identify graves even more complex.

Of the 67 graves they’ve identified at the school, eight remain nameless. Charmain Baker is troubled that 50 people buried at the school have unknown causes of death. Several students died from outbreaks of infectious diseases like the 1918 influenza pandemic, she said.

While she said she knows the records are “sketchy,” she wonders if authorities deemed the truth about some of the deaths too morbid to make public.

“We can’t say there were no kids that were killed,” Charmain said. “We just don’t know.”

A discovery in Canada sparks new scrutiny

The unmarked graves of as many as 751 people, mainly Indigenous children, were uncovered in June at a former boarding school in Saskatchewan. Another 375 graves have been discovered in British Columbia spread across the former sites of the Kamloops and Kuper Island residential schools.

The U.S. investigation into unmarked graves will include identifying and collecting records related to the federal government’s oversight of boarding schools and consulting with tribes to discuss ways to protect burial sites.

Yellowman said though



there were originally several boarding schools both operated by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and on tribal land, many students also attended off-reservation schools like Chilocco. Several of the Cheyenne and Arapaho schools were consolidated in the early 1900s, and more tribal students transferred to Chilocco.

Though there were some boarding school success stories, Yellowman said a lot of intergenerational trauma also stemmed from schools like Chilocco. He described the harsh punishments administrators at many schools doled out for behavior like speaking Native languages, and the stifling effect these had on Native culture. Yellowman never learned more than basic words in the Cheyenne language because his grandmother — who attended Concho Indian Boarding School near El Reno — emphasized the importance of speaking English.

Through the 1960s and 1970s, changing social conditions posed a threat to Native American boarding schools, and Chilocco was no exception. Facing a host of issues, including declining enrollment and a lack of federal funding, the school shuttered in 1980.

The quality of academic programs at Chilocco improved and students had more freedom and better living conditions in later years of the school’s history, according to accounts collected by the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program. Jim Baker described fond memories at Chilocco, and the countless amenities it once housed, including a thriving agricultural program and numerous facilities for sports. He was sad to see the school close, he said.

“When you get too good of a thing going, it makes people jealous,” he said.

During his time as superintendent, Jim Baker was known for working in the fields with students who participated in the school’s agricultural program. Though the crops in the fields are now dominated by weeds, Jim was again the first to start work on a recent visit, cutting the school’s grass on a riding lawn mower and eventually working his way to the school’s gravesite.

The cemetery is a small, unassuming plot of land about half a mile off the main campus, with bricks laid in the ground as headstones, and memorial crosses leaning against the fence. For years, Jim and Charmain Baker have led efforts to maintain it and locate and identify graves. They’ve also cobbled together funding from a patchwork of donors and grants to honor the school’s dead.

The Chilocco cemetery is now owned by the Kaw Nation, a federally recognized tribe with about 3,100 enrolled members headquartered in Kay County. A memorial for the dead is a tall block of stone with 67 entries for those buried engraved on it — though many are missing names, tribes and years of burial. The engravings are surrounded by child-sized hand and footprints.

The Kaw Nation received \$40,000 from the MICA

Group’s Cultural Resource Fund to pay for the memorial and a new fence around the cemetery.

One former student who owns a flower shop provides a yearly floral arrangement for the memorial.

A \$3,100 grant from ConocoPhillips funded the construction of the fence around the cemetery. Workers using radar to build the fence found “anomalies” at the site — possibly dead animals or more unmarked graves. Alumni eventually hope to find enough funds to pay for another radar screening, potentially coordinating with the Kaw Nation or other entities.

New hope for answers about unmarked graves

Native groups hope the new federal inquiry will spark a reckoning on the long-lasting harms of the United States’ boarding school system.

Community activists Redbear and Soulowla Williams, who are from the Seminole Nation near Bowlegs, are helping organize an honor walk for Native American children who died at residential schools in Oklahoma but haven’t yet been found. They said they believe there could be a local discovery of unmarked graves as large as the discovery of hundreds in Canada.

“Those babies are an awakening,” Soulowla Williams said. “And right here, Oklahoma is going to get a rude awakening when they start finding bodies here.”

The 30-mile walk will start on July 31 at the Mekusukey Mission in Seminole and end at St. Gregory’s University in Shawnee, the successor institution to Sacred Heart, a former Native American boarding school in Pottawatomie County.

Tribal leaders have attempted to launch new investigations into unmarked graves at boarding schools for decades to no avail, Soulowla Williams said, which has been frustrating for families with lost loved ones.

Yellowman said he believes the Department of the Interior investigation is needed to account for the government’s wrongs, and it should include a search for graves at all former boarding schools in Oklahoma.

Identifying and sending any remains that are found back to the tribes would be an intensive process, and Yellowman believes the decision whether to do so would have to be made further down the line. But one of the top priorities should be providing proper burials, he said.

Jim Baker said he believes there are still undiscovered burial sites at Chilocco. He welcomes the Department of the Interior investigation, which he hopes will uncover the exact number of people buried at the school and more information about when they died.

Ultimately, he wants the Department of the Interior to play a bigger role in upkeep at Chilocco.

“My hope is that they will take ownership of the cemeteries, particularly at these closed, off-reservation boarding schools ... or maybe re-

sponsibility for it becoming abandoned, and provide the necessary resources to continue to maintain these cemeteries respectfully,” he said.

Yellowman hopes the federal government will face some consequences of its actions as a result of the investigation, though he’s unsure what form they’ll take. He’d also like to see the United States acknowledge responsibility for the deaths of Indigenous students.

But he’s hesitant to say the discoveries of remains will allow for much emotional healing.

“It’s not coming to a closure because we forgive but we never forget,” he said.

This article first published online at ReadFrontier.org.

DELTA VARIANT

continued from pg. 2

promised (such as those on certain medications, cancer treatment therapies, organ transplants, etc.) are at greater risk of breakthrough infections and serious illness even after being fully vaccinated. By getting vaccinated, you help protect these individuals.

“A Pandemic of the Unvaccinated”

The head of the CDC, Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH, said recently that what we are now witnessing is “a pandemic of the unvaccinated.” Here’s why:

More than 99% of all COVID deaths occurring now are among unvaccinated individuals, (see chart on back page for stark contrast between vaccinated vs. all deaths).

Close to 99% of all new COVID-related hospitalizations are among unvaccinated individuals (see chart on back page for stark contrast between vaccinated vs. all hospitalizations).

Of all new COVID infections 99.7% are among unvaccinated individuals, (see chart on back page for stark contrast between vaccinated vs. all cases).

Today, the pandemic’s future and nearly all new COVID infections are entirely preventable. Here’s

why:

Nearly all new COVID infections are being spread by unvaccinated individuals;

Unvaccinated persons present the greatest risk for COVID infections to others (coworkers, family, friends, and strangers) including to those who are vaccinated, but especially those who are most vulnerable to severe disease and who cannot be vaccinated due to existing medical conditions.

Unvaccinated persons are providing the means for COVID to continue to spread, mutate, and for the pandemic to continue here in Oklahoma, in the US, and throughout the world. In much of the world, they do not have access yet to the vaccines. Unvaccinated persons ultimately increase the risk of more deadly and transmissible mutations in the future.

For those who are unvaccinated, wearing face masks in indoor locations or in enclosed spaces (such as autos, buses, etc.) avoiding crowded indoor settings, and limiting time (less than 15 minutes) and distance (at least 6 feet) around others who are unvaccinated (or whose vaccination status is unknown) remains extremely important.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Veterans Affairs Board 2021 Monthly Meetings

Meetings Begin 5 pm
Large Conference Room
Dept. of Administration
Concho, Okla.

**August 10
September 14
October 12
November 16
December 14**

vaboard@cheyenneand
arapaho-nsn.gov

TRIBAL COUNCIL BRANCH

K. Michelle Bigfoot, Coordinator
Office of Tribal Council
P.O. Box 167
Concho, Oklahoma 73022

Office of Tribal Council
“Making moves, Knowledge is Key”
Tribal Constitution Conference & Falmouth Institute “Roberts Rule & Recording Secretary”
August 23 – 25, 2021
Lucky Star Casino, Hotel and Convention Center
1407 S. Clarence Nash Blvd. Watonga, Oklahoma 73772
RSVP AUGUST 16, 2021(information posted at bottom)

AGENDA

Welcoming: Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council
Invocation: Elder present
MC: Burl Buffalomeat/ Chris Yellow Eagle- Presentation of Trainers

Monday August 23, 2021 First Day	Tuesday August 24, 2021 Second Day	Wednesday August 25, 2021 Third Day
8:30 A.M.- Light Breakfast	8:30 A.M.- Light Breakfast	8:30 A.M.- Light Breakfast
9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. Introduction- 2006 Constitution of the Cheyenne and Arapaho	9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.- Judicial Branch	9:00 A.M. - 10:30A.M. Discussion Constitution Amendments – Mock resolution
10:30 A.M.- 10:40 A.M.- Break.	10:30 A.M.- 10:40 A.M.- Break.	10:30 A.M. – 10:40 A.M.- Break
10:40 A.M. -11:45 A.M.- Tribal Council Branch.	10:40 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.- Elections	Discussion.....
11:45 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.- Discussion.	11:45 A.M.- 12:00 P.M.- Discussion.	
12:00 P.M.- 1:30 P.M. LUNCH (Provided)	12:00 P.M.- 1:30 P.M. LUNCH (Provided)	12 PM- Convention over....Traditional Meal Multi-purpose bldg..
1:30 P.M.- 2:45 P.M. - Legislative Branch.	1:30 P.M.- 2:45 P.M. - Referendum	1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.- Gourd Dance
2:45 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.- Break.	2:45 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.- Break.	
3:00 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.- Executive Branch.	3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.- Discussion	
4:15 P.M.- 4:30 P.M.- Discussion.		

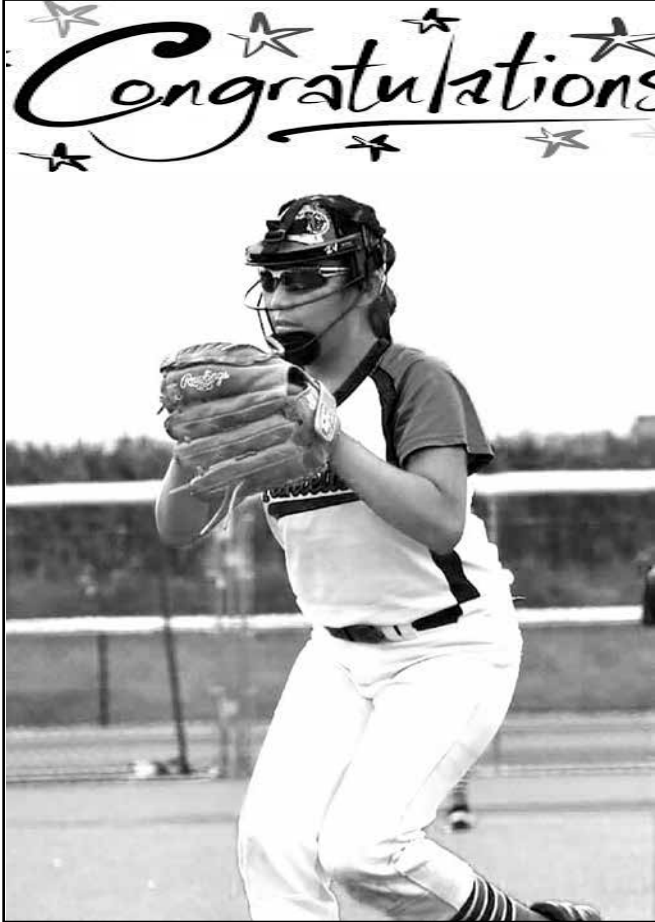
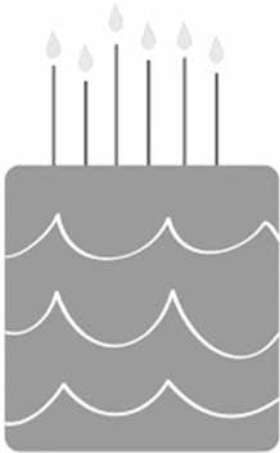
Sponsored by: Tribal Council, Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Phone numbers: Main: 1-800-247-4612 Office: 405-422-7430/ cell: 405-416-0726
email: mbigfoot@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 10th Birthday to Khloe “KoKo” Knoxsah~ “Mil-Na Ha-Nie”. With love: mom and all the family



Jordyn Littlebird, 10, of El Reno, Okla. led her 10 and under Oklahoma Athletics 2011, Pawnee fast-pitch softball team to the title of NATIONAL MIDWEST CHAMPIONS!

She competed against some of the best in the midwest and took the crown for Most Outstanding Pitcher for her team and the overall tournament.

She received outstanding honors from her coaches and caught the attention of many in Davenport, Iowa.

Her talent is one that leaves an impression on anyone watching her. She finished her best season with a total of 569 batters faced and struck out 222 and left 57 confused and struck out looking.

Jordyn is a proud Arapaho, Cheyenne, Creek and Choctaw, beautiful and talented Native youth.

Be on the lookout for more of her accomplishments ... she is a force to be reckoned with!

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JUL 13 2021
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In The Matter of the Guardianship of:

L.L.T.C.
O.R.C.
C.A.C.
M.N.C.
J.L.C.

Minor Children,

Case No. PG-2021-0042

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: **RENE PINTOR**

TAKE NOTICE that **Linda Carrera** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Children and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the **1st day of SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**, at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

Dated this 13th day of JULY, 2021.

Almarita Brown
Almarita Brown, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JUL 21 2021
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In The Matter Of Guardianship Of:

T.E.B.

Minor Child,

Case No. PG-2021-0043

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **TIERRA HOLSAPPLE AND DAVID BEASLEY UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

You are hereby notified that **DALTON HOLSAPPLE** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of T.E.B. minor child, on the 20th day of JULY, 2021, and that said Petition is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard in the Courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the **15th day of SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**, at which time you shall appear on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court.

Dated this 21st day of JULY, 2021.

Alfreda Whitecrow
Alfreda Whitecrow, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JUL 22 2021
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In The Matter Of Guardianship Of:

S.A.B.C.

Minor Child,

Case No. PG-2021-0045

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **CHRISTOPHER CARRERA UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

You are hereby notified that **LAQUITA WILLIAMS** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of S.A.B.C. minor child, on the 21st day of JULY, 2021, and that said Petition is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard in the Courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the **1st day of SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**, at which time you shall appear on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court.

Dated this 22nd day of JULY, 2021.

Almarita Brown
Almarita Brown, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JUL 23 2021
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In The Matter Of Guardianship Of:

G.K.W.B.

Minor Child,

Case No. PG-2021-0046

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **UNKNOWN**

You are hereby notified that **TEYONNA B. WEASEL BEAR** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of G.K.W.B. minor child, on the 22nd day of JULY, 2021, and that said Petition is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard in the Courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the **1st day of SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**, at which time you shall appear on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court.

Dated this 23rd day of JULY, 2021.

Almarita Brown
Almarita Brown, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JUL 12 2021
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In The Matter Of Guardianship Of:

B.T.G.

Minor Child,

Case No. PG-2021-0034

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **CHARLIE ONCO AND JOSE LAZONO UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

You are hereby notified that **DOMINGO WHITEMAN** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of B.T.G., minor child, on the 14th day of JUNE, 2021, and that said Petition is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard in the Courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the **1st day of SEPTEMBER, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**, at which time you shall appear and show cause, if any you have, why said Petition for Guardianship should not be granted.

Dated this 12th day of JULY, 2021.

Alfreda Whitecrow
Alfreda Whitecrow, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JUN 17 2021
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, EX. REL.,
BRITTANY FIERCE NOW MOORE,

PETITIONER,

vs.
JUSTIN ANDERSON,

RESPONDENT,

Case No: CIV-2018-0094
JUSTIN ANDERSON: OBLIGOR
BRITTANY FIERCE NOW MOORE: CUSTODIAN

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: **JUSTIN ANDERSON**

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Application for Indirect Contempt Citation with the Court listed above by Tribal Child Support Services. You must appear in the District Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **16th DAY OF AUGUST, 2021**. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest.

Given under my hand and seal this **1st day of June, 2021**.

Alfreda Whitecrow
Alfreda Whitecrow, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES
PERSONNEL
PO Box 167
Concho, OK 73022
(405) 262-0345 EXT: 27551
Fax: (405) 422-8222

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

UPDATED

POSITION: Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council
LOCATION: Ed. Building, East wing/ North hallway, Concho Campus
REPORTS TO: Tribal Council
ISSUE DATE: July 14, 2021
PAY RANGE: Budget approved by Legislative process and Tribal Council
JOB STATUS: Full-Time/Exempt

CLOSING DATE: August 31, 2021

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: The Coordinator will be employed directly by the Tribal Council. According to the Constitution, anyone who is interested in applying for the job of Coordinator Office Tribal Council must submit an application. All applications for the Coordinator will be published 30 days prior to the Annual Tribal Council meeting; where the Coordinator will be selected.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

Constitutional Requirements:

- Provide notice of all Regular Meetings and Special Meetings of the Tribal Council, at least Fifteen days before meeting.
- Receive a copy of decisions and minutes of each Tribal Council meeting from the Secretary selected by the Tribal Council.
- Accept all proposed Resolutions at least thirty days before each Annual Meeting or Special Meeting of the Tribal Council.
- Publish all proposed Resolutions which are submitted at least thirty days before the meeting.
- Accept Petitions to repeal an enacted law of Resolution at any time.
- Prepare agenda for Annual or Special Meetings of the Tribal Council.
- Compile all approved laws and Resolutions within ten days of passage.
- Code all Laws and resolutions within ten days of passage to be published.

Update 712/2021 Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council

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CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES
PERSONNEL
PO Box 167
Concho, OK 73022
(405) 262-0345 EXT: 27551
Fax: (405) 422-8222

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

UPDATED

Continued -

POSITION: Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council

REQUIREMENTS:

- 18 years old or older
- Must be an enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

HOW TO APPLY FOR POSITION:
Fill out job application and submit w/ resume to the Personnel Department.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
PO Box 38
Concho, OK 73022

For additional information please contact:
Office: (405) 422-7498
Fax: (405) 422-8222
Toll Free: (800) 247-4612 ext: 27498

Update 712/2021 Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council

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CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JUN 17 2021
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
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IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, EX. REL.,
SHELLEY YATES,

PETITIONER,

vs.
OSCAR BIRDSHEAD SR.,

RESPONDENT,

Case No: CIV-2015-0010
OSCAR BIRDSHEAD SR.: OBLIGOR
SHELLEY YATES: CUSTODIAN

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: **OSCAR BIRDSHEAD SR.**

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Motion for Income Assignment on Per Capita Income with the Court listed above by Tribal Child Support Services. You must appear in the District Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **16th DAY OF AUGUST, 2021**. Your failure to appear may result in the Motion for Income Assignment on Per Capita Income being taken as true and the requested relief granted will be granted.

Given under my hand and seal this **1st day of June, 2021**.

Alfreda Whitecrow
Alfreda Whitecrow, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

Update 712/2021 Coordinator, Office of Tribal Council

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U.S. BASKETBALL

continued from pg. 7

the team, Johnson said half are of Native American descent.

With two practices in the bag so far for the team, Johnson said Team Oklahoma is more of a representation team that will play for the U.S. Tournament.

“It’s a U.S. Basketball Tournament and each state puts together teams from their state and sends them to the tournament, so it is an all-star game but I consider it more of a representation tournament,” Johnson said.

The combines for tryouts were held to test player’s skills, and based on how they performed at the combines, along with their performance in their AAU program, and at high school, players were selected to be a part of Team Oklahoma.

Johnson said this is the first time Oklahoma has had representation for the U.S. Tournament.

“A lot of what we’re preparing for is the unknown because we don’t know how strong the teams for the other states are going to be because we didn’t have as much time to prepare, there’s teams in other states that have been there since the get go and they have more established state leadership and coaching,” Johnson said.

In fundraising for the tournament, Redshin said he has held a fundraiser raffling items and will have food sales and other fundraising efforts in the works.

Lily Thomas, 14, stands 6’1 feet tall and plays forward for the 16U Girls on Team Oklahoma.

Thomas said she decided to join Team Oklahoma when she was asked by the girls coach to join the team, a coach who already knew Thomas’ skill set on the court.

“Two days before I ended school they asked me to try out, I was still doing school so I didn’t try out, but they still asked me if I wanted to play recently so I started practicing this past week,” Thomas said.

In being a part of Team Oklahoma, Thomas said she feels honored to be able

to represent Oklahoma, but feels nervous to be playing with 16U and older girls.

“It’s not a lot different but I know it’s going to be faster pace with older girls that I’m playing,” Thomas said.

Despite feeling anxious in competing at the next level, Thomas said she looks forward to getting more looks on the court and maybe even winning the U.S. Tournament.

“I get to play the best in each state and play against older people, probably upper level, there’s going to be scouts there and I think I’ll get a lot of looks,” Thomas said.

Alongside Team Oklahoma, Thomas also plays for Oklahoma Fusion and R.E.Sp.E.C.T., where she said it gives her the opportunity to play different roles for each team.

“I either play a forward, or I’m either out shooting, if I’m with Oklahoma Fusion I’ll be in the post, sometimes I play different roles,” Thomas said.

In joining the Team Oklahoma, Thomas said she’s adjusting well as she’s played with some of the girls on her team beforehand in a tournament.

“We’re working on screens, shooting, placement, dribbling, drills, and free throws,” Thomas said.

Although she’s just a week into practicing with the team, Thomas said she’s excited to play and get out there on the court with more people.

In fundraising for the upcoming tournament, Thomas said she held a car wash and raised approximately \$400, with more fundraising attempts planned for the future.

Team Oklahoma 16U Girls Coach, Corey Brown said that although Thomas is sweet and quiet, she has a big presence on the court.

“During this tournament I’m hoping she brings a variety of game to the team as far as the post areas concerned, she’s well bred, she can move, she shoots mid-range, she’s quite aggressive so I’m hoping she brings a level of competitiveness in that

area,” Brown said.

Thomas is the youngest player of the 16U team, making it a challenge for her Brown said, as most of the girls will match in size for her in this competition.

Brown said she first met Thomas when she was in the sixth grade and she came to play in a tournament for her.

“My girls were in eighth grade at the time and it was just that one tournament, her being younger, she just went for it, she was scoring, she was defending, so that prompted me to say I’m going to ask her, because this opportunity is so great and she can play,” Brown said.

To be a part of the program with Team Oklahoma, Brown said players have to be well skilled and quite talented.

“They’re looking for kids who have determination, passion, and zeal for the sport, and in order to make this type of team you have to bring all those components in one out of three combines, you have to show each coach that you deserve, earned and are talented enough to be a part of a team that will play some of the best in the world,” Brown said.

And for Thomas, Brown said she’s appreciative that she chose to come along for the journey.

“I’m praying that all the girls are able to get a great college look out of the tournament and I’m hoping that they’re able to gain something out of it as far as their future is concerned,” Brown said.

For general information regarding the U.S. Basketball Games National Tournament in Atlanta, Ga., visit <https://halftimesports.net/general-information>.



TALKING CIRCLES

continued from pg. 6

Klimas’ talking circles offer support to clients who seek residential or outpatient treatment for substance abuse or behavioral health concerns. The organization’s Patina Wellness Center has a room dedicated to talking circles, with cushioned chairs placed around a circular skylight that shines onto a wooden floor, used as an altar during the practice. Weekly circles continued over the past year, with social distancing and mask requirements in place.

Even with modifications made for COVID-19, Klimas still leads her circles the way she usually does. She sets up an altar with items representing earth, fire, wind and water, and she always starts with a smudging – the burning of dried herbs, which she said provides a “calming perspective.” She also brings an eagle feather that each participant holds while sharing; it serves as a “telephone line” to whatever higher power the speaker seeks to communicate with.

Klimas starts and ends her circles with affirmations.

“I’m strong, I’m teachable, I’m lovable, I’m worthy,” she often tells women. And for groups of mostly men, she might offer: “I’m humble, I can be that protector, I can walk away from a challenge that can lead me to further troubles.”

In Denver, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless introduced a series of outdoor talking circles at a park last year. Before the pandemic, Teresa Bernie, an Ihanktonwan Nakota talking circle facilitator, held sessions three days a week for up to 25 people. Going virtual wasn’t a viable option for the population she works with, Bernie said.

“People loved that we could still gather,” she said. “Because we’re urban, we gather to stay connected to our culture, and that means gathering to share food and prayer and just to visit and keep close connections with one another.”

Johnston, of Native Health, has helped facilitate the virtual talking circle with ASU students. The process is much the same online: The circle starts with a greeting and the purification ritual of smudging with ce-

dar sage, and includes prayers, songs, storytelling and individual sharing.

Native Health has been mailing sage bundles to circle participants who request them. And in place of a traditional water blessing at the end, the Zoom participants each drink a glass of water.

Catalina Alvarez Flores, 24, a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, joined after losing her aunt to COVID-19, along with some elders she had known since she was young.

“I didn’t really know how to cope because of so much going on in the world,” said Flores, who studies anthropology and family and human development. “You’re constantly seeing things in the media, how many deaths per day, a lot of negativity.”

“I wanted to find a place that had kind of an Indigenous perspective to talk about these issues, especially with a lot of Indigenous communities being affected by the pandemic in higher numbers.”

Johnston initially was skeptical about leading circles virtually. “I just don’t do things like that,” he recalled saying when he first was approached. But the work has made for meaningful experiences and conversations.

When the time for individual sharing comes, Johnston said, frequent topics include loss, isolation, sadness, students being separated from or locked down on reservations or contracting COVID-19 themselves.

Beyond concerns about the pandemic, the circle offers a chance to talk about issues that are likely best understood by other Indigenous people, said Tony Velarde, 24, of Chandler, a member of the Jicarilla Apache Nation who’s studying political science.

“I could just keep coming back and be like, ‘Guys, this is the thing and this sucks and I just want to share it with you,’” Velarde said. “Especially if the issue was particularly because you were Native, there weren’t a lot of other places you could share that information, where people would understand it to that degree.”

Laura Gonzales-Macias, in-

terim director of ASU’s American Indian Student Support Services, described the talking circle as a “gathering of a safe space, a place that recognizes there have been some devastating impacts in tribal communities.”

“We were hearing from students, particularly those in the urban area that are from reservations, that their homes were on lockdown due to COVID,” Gonzales-Macias said. “They couldn’t get home to do a ceremony or a gathering. This was an avenue for them to do that while staying here.”

Studies have shown that incorporating talking circles into primary care can help improve symptoms as well as quality of life.

Kayla-Rae Wakeland, Native Health’s substance abuse and suicide prevention case manager, has seen firsthand the mental health benefits of these gatherings. She participates in the ASU circles, alongside Johnston. For some of the students, she said, it’s their first time interacting with a mental health provider.

“To be able to have that guidance and having their peers say it’s OK, and knowing that they do need more help, it really helped them push themselves to start receiving behavioral health services,” Wakeland said.

ASU’s virtual talking circles are continuing this summer. Gonzales-Macias said she hopes to eventually introduce an in-person circle.


For Klimas and other facilitators, it’s heartening to see talking circles used in new ways. There was a time, she recalled, when her Oglala Lakota ancestors practiced such traditions only in hiding, because of religious persecution.

She considers their growing popularity an answer to her grandparents’ prayers that Indigenous traditions would one day be a source of pride, not shame.

“They may not have been held the way they were held 200 years ago,” Klimas said. “But because of their resilience, these are ways that have not been forgotten about.”

VOTING IS ONE WAY WE FIGHT FOR

OUR FUTURE



TOGETHER WE HAVE POWER!

VOTE MYRA CAMPBELL
FOR YOUR
ARAPAHO DISTRICT 2
LEGISLATOR

Paid Advertising

COVID & VACCINES: WHERE WE ARE NOW

COVID Deaths
May 2021, USA



The Delta variant is more infectious and more dangerous.

- 84% of all new COVID infections in Oklahoma are caused by the Delta variant.
- It is more likely to cause severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
- It's 225% more transmissible than the original variant, making it similar to smallpox.

This will likely be the most dangerous virus that you face in your lifetime.

37 people died in Oklahoma last week. All of them were unvaccinated.

The COVID vaccines are among the most effective and safe vaccines ever developed.

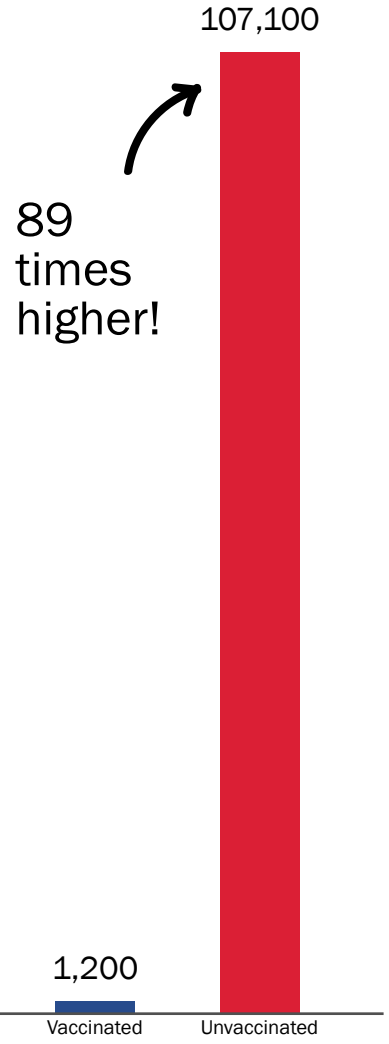
- They have been in development and research for 40 years.
- COVID vaccines are designed to prevent severe illness, hospitalizations and death.
- Testing positive for COVID while vaccinated is called a breakthrough infection.
- Breakthrough infections will occur with a few individuals, but symptoms are almost always mild.

COVID Infections
May 2021, USA



1,203 people got COVID in Oklahoma last week. 1,199 were unvaccinated.

COVID Hospitalizations
May 2021, USA



Unvaccinated people are:

- at the greatest risk for getting COVID
- allowing COVID to mutate and spread
- continuing the pandemic

500 people are hospitalized for COVID. Nearly all were unvaccinated.

More than 99% of all COVID deaths now are among the unvaccinated.

- 99.7% of all new COVID infections are among the unvaccinated.
- More than 99% of new COVID infections have been spread by unvaccinated individuals.
- Close to 99% of all new COVID-related hospitalizations are among unvaccinated individuals.

16,348 were vaccinated in Oklahoma last week. Do you want to join them?

Talk to your doctor or a health professional you trust about the COVID vaccine.

Hohóú! I'm not vaccinated yet.



Department of Health
COVID Task Force



Tribal Health Board
Indian Health Service

